

# ZONE

MAY 2017 ISSUE 241

## ARE YOU AGEIST?

*Shall we talk?  
Birmingham  
LGBT's team  
investigates*

## GLAM UP

*Brum gay bar  
gets a  
'Glamorous'  
make-over*

# DUA LIPA

*Will she be 'hotter than hell'  
at Birmingham Pride?*



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BIRMINGHAM  
PRIDE GUIDE  
INSIDE**



## EURO<sup>UK</sup>vision

*Does Lucie Jones have  
what it takes to steer  
the UK to victory?*



**FOOD  
VIRAL  
GADGETS  
WHAT'S ON  
COMPETITIONS**

# Paul Morrell

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**PROUD TO BE  
PERFORMING AT**

**Birmingham Pride -  
Main Stage**

**Sunday May 28<sup>th</sup> 2017**

## **FORTHCOMING SINGLES**

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'Desire' with Kelli Leigh  
'Love Again' Ft Rama Duke

## **RESIDENCIES**

Weekly Saturdays at XXL London.  
Monthly Fridays at XXL Birmingham.  
Monthly Fridays at Ministry of Sound London.

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Birmingham Pride headliner



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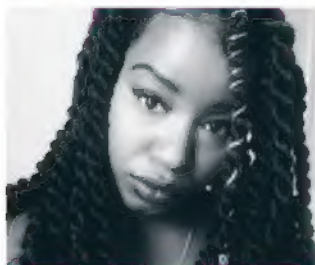
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THE PROPHETS • KRISTY GALLACHER  
RACHEL WESTON • VALERIO LYSANDER  
LORAIN BOWEN • MAUREEN YOUNGER  
DR BEV • JORDAN CHARLES • LILITH AI  
CALTON KELLY • LETITIA GEORGE**

**...AND MANY MORE**



**LLOYD DANIELS**



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## It's a kind of magic! **Queen + Adam Lambert** return to the Midlands!

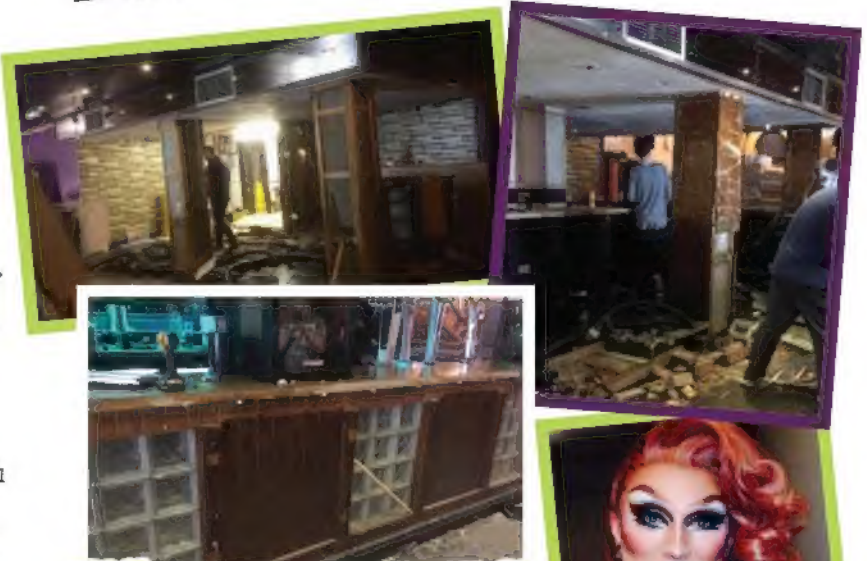
Here's some great news for all you Queen fans out there - the legendary band are once again teaming up with gay singer Adam Lambert to tour the country! The boys will be showcasing a spectacular state-of-the-art stage production, as well as a set list which, they hint, may well include a surprise or two. The choice of performance material will no doubt acknowledge the 40th anniversary of Queen's biggest-selling studio album to date, 1977's *News Of The World*, which featured immortal anthems *We Will Rock You* and *We Are The Champions*. Queen + Adam Lambert play Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, on Thursday 30 November. Tickets are on sale now.



## Same-sex wedding bells in the **Falkland Islands**

The tiny British overseas territory of the Falkland Islands has overwhelmingly voted in favour of making same-sex marriage legal! The Legislative Assembly passed the motion into law by a vote of seven to one, while a public consultation of 3,000 people (there aren't many more people there!) saw 90% of residents supporting same-sex marriage. Not only that, but civil partnerships will also be available both to same-sex and opposite-sex couples. Congratulations!

# Have ya heard?



## Glamorous relaunch with **Vivienne**

You may remember from last month's Midlands Zone that popular cabaret venue Glamorous on Birmingham's Hurst Street was set to undergo a mahooosive makeover. Well, boy have the team been hard at work throughout the past month! You can see by the pictures above that they've left no stone unturned in their efforts to bring the bar bang up to date! All being well, the new-look Glamorous will launch at the beginning of May with a party featuring special guest The Vivienne! We can't wait to see it!

## Queer Britain shines a light on the country's LGBT community

If you're a fan of popular gay YouTuber Riyadh Khalaf, then you're in luck - BBC Three has announced details of a new documentary hosted by the man himself! The programme 'aims to get under the skin of queer culture and shine a light on the challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ community'. Riyadh says that the series 'pulls no punches and goes straight to the heart of the issues facing LGBTQ+ people in the UK today'. Apparently it's going to 'make you feel uncomfortable, shocked and maybe even upset' at times, but overall you'll see 'the beauty and diversity of the community in its full glory'. The series will consist of six weekly episodes, with the first showing on Sunday 7 May on BBC iPlayer and YouTube.



SATURDAY 27 MAY

MAIN STAGE

DUALIPA

BASEMENT JAXX

DJ SET

jonas  
Blue

LOUISA  
JOHNSON

M.O

RAYE

BETSY

HERCULES &  
LOVE AFFAIR

NADIA  
ROSE

SAARA AALTO

PINK ANGELS

HOSTED BY:  
AUSTIN ARMACOST

DANCE ARENA

TOUGH LOVE

Jamie  
Duggan

LIVE PERFORMANCE

KELLI-LEIGH

OFFICIAL  
NANCIE

PETE GRAHAM RUE JAY BRANDON ROSS OAKLEY JADE MARIE & ASH TURNER  
JAMES SILVER SANDIG CAVNA PEARCE M PHIL J LARRY HAN

CABARET MARQUEE

TOPPING & BUTCH VICKY JACKSON

SANDRA LOLA LASAGNE MISS JASON TANYA HYDE SON OF A TUTU  
KELLY WILDE TOPSIE REDFERN KARA VAN PARK FEAT MISS MARTY  
MISS PENNY BAGA CHIPZ MAISIE TROLLETTE THE DIVINE MISS M

ALT CLUB STAGE

CAKES DA KILLA DAI BURGER NI-KU BITCH SLAP WUT CLUB  
DJ JAY JAY REVLO FT. LONDON BALLROOM SCENE KILLGLASS

WOMEN'S ARENA

RUNFOUR LAUREN HOYLE LUCY BROWN ELLE ROBERTSON AMY LAQUEEFA  
DJ BIATCH N JNR DJ DELLA DJ DANNI CARA DJ LISA SHARRED + MORE!

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**SUNDAY 28 MAY**

MAIN STAGE

# Gabrielle Sigala.

**SOPHIE  
ELLIS-  
BEXTOR**

**Jamelia**

FEATURING  
MAIZIE WILLIAMS

**Boney M**

**SEANN  
MILEY  
MOORE**

**CHARLOTTE CHURCH'S LATE NIGHT POP DUNGEON**

**CAPITAL B DJ PAUL MORRELL HOSTED BY GEORGE SHELLEY**

DANCE ARENA

**TODD TERRY KISSY SELL OUT**

**RYAN BLYTH FT MALISHA BLEAU THE STICKMEN**

**MARC SPENCE TOM SHORTERZ JOE HUNT DONKIE PUNCH ANDRE AMOUR  
BEAVER DAN HARRIS MARCUS JAMES MARK LEVITT STUART 'COOKIE' COOKE**

CABARET MARQUEE

**THE DE EXPERIENCE**

**SANDRA MISS THUNDERPUSSY DRAG WITH NO NAME LADY IMELDA  
DIVINA DE CAMPO MISS MARTY CHAMPAGNE SHIRLEY  
CHEDDAR GORGEOUS TWIGGY KARA VAN PARK VICKI VIVACIOUS  
AMY LA QUEEFA MARTHA D'ARTHUR GAVINA VAGINA**

ALT CLUB STAGE

**MYKKI BLANCO PXSSY PALACE CLUB FIERCE MOHO BITCH SLAP URBAN SLAG**

WOMEN'S ARENA

**FAYE BAGLEY REYNA WASHBROOK ZARA SYKES ESTHER TURNER  
BETH PRIOR MADI SASKIA CALL ME UNIQUE DJ GAIL DJ BEE**

**5 STAGES + FUNFAIR + STREET PARTY**



**'LOVE + PRIDE'  
CARNIVAL PARADE  
SAT 27 MAY  
FROM 12 NOON AT  
VICTORIA SQUARE**



*Birmingham*  
**pride**  
BIG WEEKENDER

## Hundreds march in **Birmingham** AGAINST homophobia in Chechnya

In a proud display of solidarity, Birmingham's LGBT community and its friends took to the streets of the city centre last month to highlight the horrors being faced by LGBTs in Chechnya.

Roughly 250 people took part in a march from Birmingham's LGBT Centre to Victoria Square, along the way waving flags, placards and banners.

Once there, a series of speakers took to the microphone to talk about the horrific situation in Chechnya, where gay men are being held prisoner in concentration camps - or worse, killed.



## Gok Wan to 'bare all' on stage in Birmingham

Well, maybe not 'bare all' in a 'get your kit off' kind of way, but Gok Wan, the guy who encouraged people to strip off in telly's *How To Look Good Naked*, is set to lay bare the story of his life and career in a brand new stage show.

Gok Wan Naked & Baring All visits Birmingham Town Hall on Sunday 12 November.

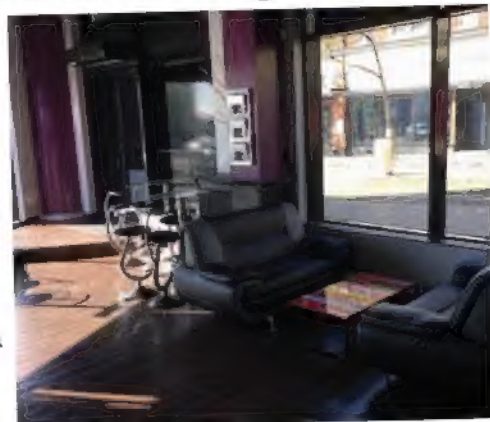


## Rhapsody Bar - new live music venue coming to Brum's Gay Village

It's time to get excited... An all-new venue is coming to Brum's awesome Gay Village this month with the launch of Rhapsody Bar!

"Rhapsody will offer a range of alternative bands and singers in the hope of showcasing new local talent on a Friday night," says Jamie Hallis, who's opening the bar. "Then, on a Saturday, we'll be adding to Hurst Street's party atmosphere with a DJ, and there'll then be a chill-out session full of acoustic music on a Sunday."

"Of course, we'll still be looking to host some of Hurst Street's favourite types of entertainment, such as cabaret and karaoke events, on other nights." Located opposite Sidewalk and Equator on Hurst Street, Rhapsody Bar is set to open on Friday 5 May.



## Wolverhampton Pride set to return in 2017!



After a two-year absence, Wolverhampton Pride looks set to return this September - hopefully bigger and better!

The bosses at Gorgeous Nightclub and Wolverhampton's City Centre Company are negotiating with a view to relaunching the event on Saturday 30 September.

Shaun Keasey, one of the directors at Gorgeous, is excited about the prospect of Pride making a welcome return to the streets of Wolverhampton: "It was such a shame when Wolves Pride foundered after 2014, but we're determined to ensure that it's relaunched this autumn and becomes an annual event in the city's calendar."

# Have ya heard?



## **Gay Britannia:** a series of BBC shows commemorating the 50th anniversary of the decriminalisation of homosexuality

The BBC has announced an exciting season of dramas and documentaries dedicated to LGBT life in Britain.

Called Gay Britannia, the series of television, online and radio programmes will mark the 50th anniversary of the decriminalisation of homosexuality.

Included in the season is a BBC Three documentary hosted by Years & Years front man Olly Alexander which will examine why LGBT people are more vulnerable to experiencing mental health issues. Olly will use the programme to discuss his own experiences with depression. BBC Two, meanwhile, will broadcast compelling drama *Against The Law*, in which Daniel Mays stars as Peter Wildeblood, a journalist who was found guilty of homosexuality in the now-infamous Montagu Trial of 1954.

Stephen K Amos also makes a contribution to the season, presenting *The People's History Of LGBT Britain*, which takes a look at the precious memorabilia that has helped to document and change the lives of LGBT people over the last 50 years.

Other shows announced in the series include *Is It Safe To Be Gay In The UK?* and *Man In An Orange Shirt*. The programmes will be aired later in the year.



## **Bananarama** are back!

Here's one we're certainly looking forward to! Bananarama, the girl group who defined the '80s, are back! Not only that, but it's the original line-up of Sara, Keren and Siobhan who're heading out on tour, visiting Birmingham on Thursday 23 November.

Keren says: "We'll be performing all the hits, and there'll be some surprises too. I really can't wait - it's gonna be an amazing party every night!" Bananarama made it into the Guinness Book Of World Records as the most successful female group of all time, having had more hit singles than any other girl band ever. To date, they've had 30 chart hits and reached number one in countries around the world. Tickets are on sale now.

## **The Dreamboys** are coming to Wolves!



Do you want to see some hot stuff? Then head for Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre next month to enjoy a night with The Dreamboys!

Described as 'the most famous stripper act the UK has ever produced', The Dreamboys have appeared on some of the country's biggest TV shows, including *The X Factor*, *Britain's Got Talent*, *Celebrity Big Brother*, *Loose Women* and *This Morning*.

So if you fancy spending an evening in the company of some seriously hot guys, the boys will be flexing their biceps and plenty more besides at the Grand on Monday 19 June.



Birmingham **LGBT**

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Sexual Health Services for LGBT People

# Here to support you – not to judge you!

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## Opening hours

**Mon: 8am–8pm**

**Fri: 8am–8pm**

**Tues, Wed, Thu: 9am–9pm**

**Sat and Sun: 10am–8pm**

**Contact the Sexual Health Team at the Birmingham LGBT Centre**

 [birminghamlgbt.org.uk](http://birminghamlgbt.org.uk)

 [sexualhealth@blgbt.org](mailto:sexualhealth@blgbt.org)

 0121 643 0821

 [umbrellahealth.co.uk](http://umbrellahealth.co.uk)

 0121 237 5700

 [umbrellaatbirminghamlgbt](https://www.facebook.com/umbrellaatbirminghamlgbt)

# Who Gets Your Vote?

## Queer Question Time in Birmingham

**At a time when the country is more divided than ever, the forthcoming general election is likely to be one of the most heated for a generation.**

Next month's Queer Question Time at Birmingham Repertory Theatre will provide members of the LGBT community with the chance to put their questions to candidates from the main political parties, who will be joined on the panel by human rights and LGBT campaigner Peter Tatchell.

Candidates so far confirmed to attend are Liberal Democrat Lee Darque and UKIP's Keith Rowe. The Tories, Labour and the Green Party have yet to announce who'll be participating on their behalf.

The debate will follow the format of the BBC's popular Question Time programme.

Steve Ball, Associate Director at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre and chair of Queer Question Time, said, "Across the region, the votes of the LGBT community could decide who wins or loses. This is an opportunity not just to hear from the candidates about their views and policies but also to have our own voices heard. It promises to be an exciting evening of lively and heated debate."

Dave Viney, Health & Wellbeing Manager at Birmingham LGBT added, "Birmingham LGBT is proud to be partnering with Birmingham REP to produce this edition of Queer Question Time. Following Equal Marriage, it's easy to be complacent about the issues still facing the community. Events like this offer us the chance to remind politicians that we are citizens and voters, and to raise our concerns directly with them."



**Queer Question Time takes place in the Studio Theatre at The REP, Birmingham, on Tuesday 6 June at 7.30pm.** This is a free event but tickets must be booked in advance at The REP box office - 0121 245 4455 - or online at [birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://birmingham-rep.co.uk)

## See what some of our Zone readers have to say...



"A secure brexit and therefore the conservatives. We can change the government any time in the future, there is only one brexit and only the conservatives have the competence and stability to deliver it."

**David Richardson**



"Letting the Tories back in because you don't like Jeremy Corbyn is like burning down your house because you don't like the curtains."

**Buffy Sparks**



"Labour I got sucked in by the Conservatives last time with the promise I could buy my Housing Association property that I have lived in 13 years. This didn't happen and I will never vote conservative again."

**JoJo Donovan**



"I hope no one will be voting for the Lib Dem with their homophobic leader (as much as he tries to deny it!)"

**Chris Baker**



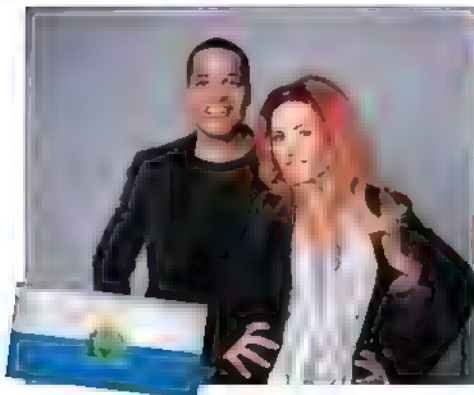
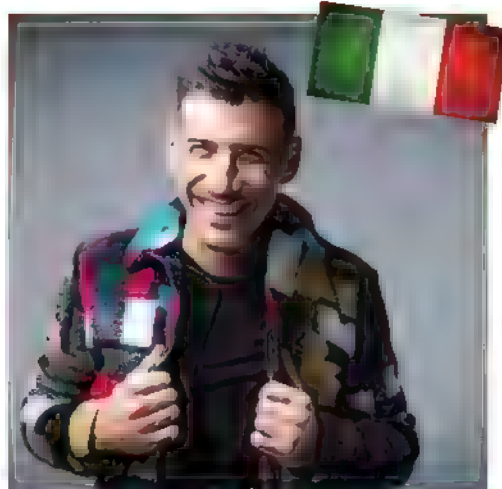
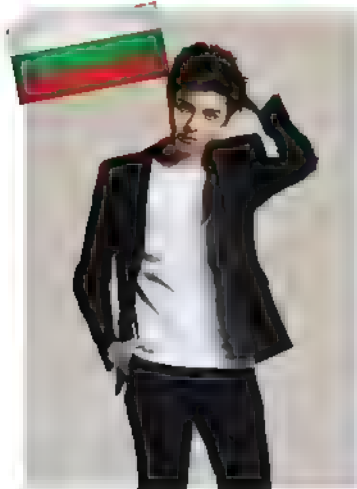
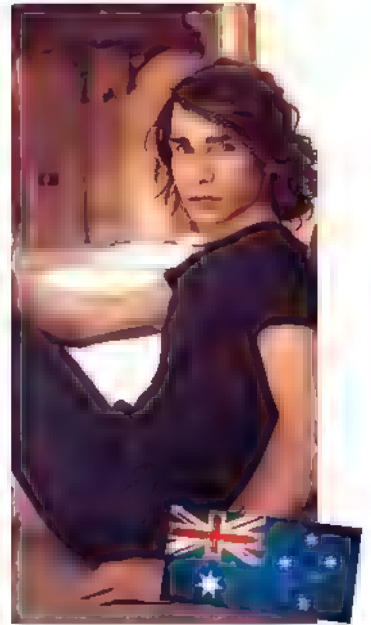
"Conservative all the way. The only sensible vote as far as I'm concerned. Do people seriously want Jeremy Corbyn running the country? Might as well have the chuckle brothers"

**Mandy Lewis**



"I'll be voting for whom I believe will represent us most effectively during the pending Brexit negotiations."

**David Nash**



**TOP FIVE BETTING ODDS...**  
Odds Given by William Hill

**Italy 1/1**

**Belgium 10/1**

# Making your mind up!

## It's Eurovision time!

**Love it or loathe it, you can't ignore it. Yes, the Eurovision Song Contest is back. This year, thanks to Jamala and her controversial winner, 1944, we're off to Kiev in Ukraine.**

The journey to the 2017 songfest has been a bumpy ride. Not only did most of the show's production team resign in January, but there was also major uncertainty about whether Russia would be allowed to perform - but more of that later

For the United Kingdom, this is a special year, as we're competing for the 60th time (we've only missed the 1956 and 1958 editions). Until the turn of the millennium, we were pretty much a permanent fixture in the Top 10. But since 2012, we've come no higher than 17th. Hoping to restore some glory to our tarnished record is Lucie Jones with the ballad, I Will Never Give Up On You, co-written by the Danish 2013 Eurovision winner, Emmelie de Forest. It's superbly sung, and it should do well with the expert juries who make up half of the votes, but I fear it might not quite hit home with the televoting public in a contest awash with other ballads. That said, it's our best entry since 2011, when boy-band Blue came 11th.

The favourite this year comes from Italy. With a charming smile and a radiant personality, Francesco Gabbani sings the uber-catchy Occidentali's Karma. Apparently the song is inspired by ideas Francesco got after reading *The Naked Ape* by ethologist Desmond Morris. If that sounds a bit highbrow, don't worry, it's actually a fantastic song - and it's likely that either Francesco or a backing singer will perform it dressed in a gorilla suit. There's also a dance routine that takes about five seconds to pick up. Admittedly gimmicks don't always work at Eurovision. Ireland was once represented by a puppet, Dustin The Turkey, sticking his head out of a toilet seat, and it sank without a trace. But Bucks Fizz's skirt-ripping routine or, more recently, Swedish winner Måns Zelmerlöw's stick man animation, probably did a lot to help both songs triumph.

Last year Australia came second and Bulgaria were fourth, and I wouldn't put it past either of them to be in contention again. Seventeen-year-old Australian X Factor winner Isaiah will sing the superb ballad, Don't Come Easy, and Kristian Kostov, also 17, just four months Isaiah's junior (and as such the youngest competitor in Kiev), will perform the equally

good but quite similar-sounding Bulgarian entry, Beautiful Mess. And if 'slow and emotional' is your thing, then also look out for Finnish indie duo Norma John with Blackbird, a haunting and heartbreaking song about lost love. After Italy, it's my second favourite.

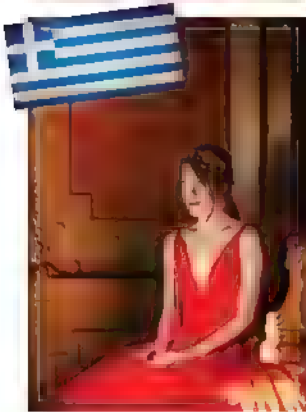
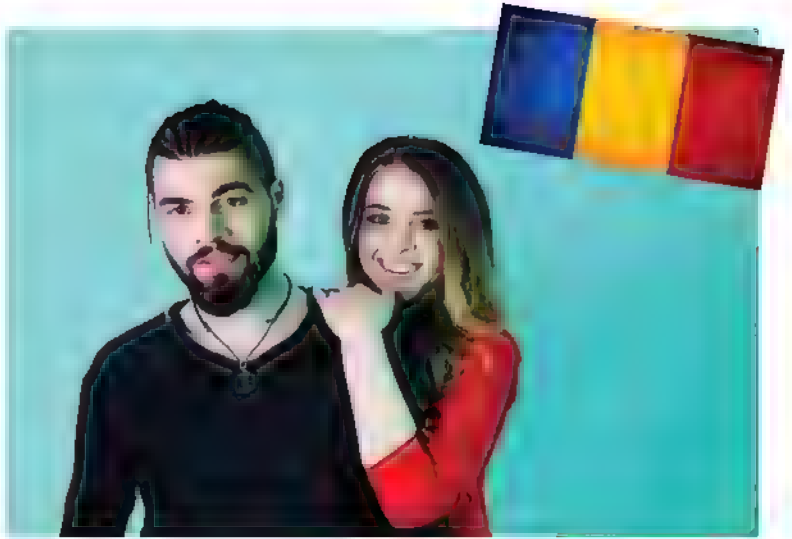
As I mentioned earlier, the UK has been languishing near the bottom of the scoreboard for a good few years now, but at least we can say we've won five times and come second on 15 occasions. So spare a thought for poor old Portugal. They first entered in 1964 and have never won. In fact, their best placing is sixth, but 2017 really could be their year. Salvador Sobral sings *Amar Pelos Dois*. This luscious, old-fashioned ballad would be more at home in a 1940s Hollywood film, but its simplicity may strike a real chord amongst some of the more generic offerings.

But what would Eurovision be without some uptempo pop? Aside from the fabulous Italian entry, it is of course Sweden who give us a bit of modern 'boom bang a bang'. Robin Bengtsson looks set to continue his home country's domination of the contest with *I Can't Go On*. The song is infectious and is accompanied by a fabulous stage routine featuring adapted

Australia - 20/1

Romania - 25/1

Greece - 33/1



running machines, and Robin's got amazing eyes. You can decide for yourself which of these three things makes the most impact when you check out the song. Robin's entry was not without controversy, however, as the lyrics to the original version included the F word. That 'F' has now become 'freakin' Thank 'F' for that!

But that's not where it ends with saucy lyrics. Montenegro's Slavko isn't exactly the shy and retiring type. In his preview video, he's cavorting around bare-chested, whacking everyone in sight with his very long pony tail. His '70s disco-inspired track, Space, includes talk of 'wet dreams' and apparently "The spaceship is ready to blow/Drunk in love/I'm gonna explode". Oh my. We've come a long way since Sandie Shaw's Puppet On A String.

To be fair, Slavko's song is pretty good. If you want a far cheesier take on '70s glitterball culture, then check out San Marino's Spirit Of The Night, performed

by Jimmie Wilson and Valentina Monetta, the latter of whom is representing San Marino for the fourth time - be kind, San Marino is a very small country. Penned by Ralph Siegel, who's written about 10,000 Eurovision entries, the song includes three key changes - this should tell you everything you need to know.

The seventies not your thing? Well if, like me, you love the '80s, then look out for Estonia. Their song, Verona - a slice of old school Europop performed by Koit Toome (who represented them back in Birmingham in 1998) and Laura - takes Shakespeare's Romeo And Juliet as its theme. But don't let that put you off. If you're old enough to remember those masters of German '80s pop, Modern Talking, you will love this ode to the Bard's doomed lovers. If you weren't even born in the 1980s, let this be the start of your education.

So far, so fabulous. But sadly the run-up to this year's contest was marred by

headlines about whether Russia would actually be taking part. They selected Julia Samoylova to be their artist, but the problem was that Julia previously performed in Crimea - annexed by Moscow in 2014 - on what the Ukrainian security service has called 'an illegal visit'. The upshot is that she's been banned from entering Ukraine for three years. All attempts to resolve the issue, including Julia performing by satellite from Moscow, have failed, and in mid-April it was announced that Russia won't be in Kiev.

So there you have it. Eurovision 2017 is anything but dull. Political controversy, naughty lyrics, brilliant ballads, a Swede with great eyes, a bit of '40s Hollywood, '70s disco, '80s Europop, and a man in a gorilla costume (who will probably win). What more do you want?

**The Grand Final of Eurovision 2017 will air on BBC One on Sat 13 May**

# Is it time to Brexit from Eurovision?

So, the UK is leaving the European Union. But fear not, music fans. Triggering Article 50, praise be to ABBA, doesn't mean we'll be exiting the Eurovision Song Contest.

But will us packing our suitcase and leaving the EU actually make a difference to how we do in the Contest? Well, let's look at some facts. There are 42 countries taking part this year, with 16 of them not being members of the EU. Why would the UK leaving the EU matter to them? Is there any reason why Albania and Azerbaijan, for example, would care?

What of the other 25 countries that are in the EU? Will they decide to punish the UK for our decision to go?

Fifty percent of the votes for Eurovision come from juries made up of musical professionals in each country. They have to rank the songs in the final from their favourite (1st) to their least favourite (25th), so it's technically possible that these so-called experts could, irrespective of the quality of our song, decide simply to put the UK last if they don't agree with our decision to leave. Of course, most likely is these jury members won't give a diggi loo diggi-ley about our attitude to the EU, and just judge the songs on whether they like them.

The other 50% of the votes come from the public, voting by phone or app. You only vote for the songs you want to do well. There's no way of registering a negative vote for a country. You can't ring up someone at Eurovision headquarters in Switzerland and say you'd like the UK to do really badly. Again, ironically, what might happen is members of the public in the other 25 EU states who have Brexit sympathies might just vote for the UK to say they agree with our decision to go. But I don't really believe that will happen. At around 11pm on a Saturday night, after five large beers, I'm not sure Stephan from Germany or Pedro

from Spain will be thinking much about Brexit when they come to vote. Because they're just like us Brits - they might just think a song is quite catchy, or they might like the fact that the song features a performer in a gorilla suit...

This year's UK entry is called *I Will Never Give Up On You*, which a lot of UK Eurovision fans (well, maybe two or three) have redubbed, *I Will Never Give Up On EU*. Maybe the great European public will listen to the lyrics and think we're sending a subliminal message about how we regret our decision to leave. Or maybe they'll just think our song is a solid ballad sung by a very good singer.

Another problem with blaming any potential bad result on Brexit is that we can't exactly say we've been doing that well at Eurovision this millennium. Since 2000, we've only been in the top 10 twice (2002 and 2009). Is this really because the rest of Europe hates us? No.

Ponder the UK entries from Bonnie Tyler and last year's British singers - Joe and Jake. Their songs really weren't that bad, but they weren't that good either. And in the year that Sweden won with ludicrously brilliant Euphoria, who did the UK send? Engelbert Humperdinck. Lovely chap, but this was 2012. Unsurprisingly we came second last. And the less said about the entries from Scooch and Electro Velvet the better. Again, lovely people, but the songs were embarrassing.

The truth is the contest has moved on and, although it still has its fair share of



Europap, it also has some credible and contemporary pop. And the masters of this new, modern Eurovision sound? Sweden. They're pretty much always in the top 10, so if they'd done a 'Swexit' this year, it really would've been fascinating to see if it affected their final position.

The UK gave the world The Beatles and Adele. We probably invented modern pop music. So it's no wonder that everyone has high expectations of us. Honestly, it's a lie to say that we don't do well because 'the rest of Europe hates us'.

In my experience, the rest of Europe loves our music - they love the songs of the Pet Shop Boys, Ed Sheeran and Little Mix. They just wish that our Eurovision entries could live up to the quality released by artists like these.

This year marks the 60th time the UK has taken part in the Eurovision Song Contest.

Here's to another 60 years of great songs and having fun with our European cousins!

**Dean Asker**

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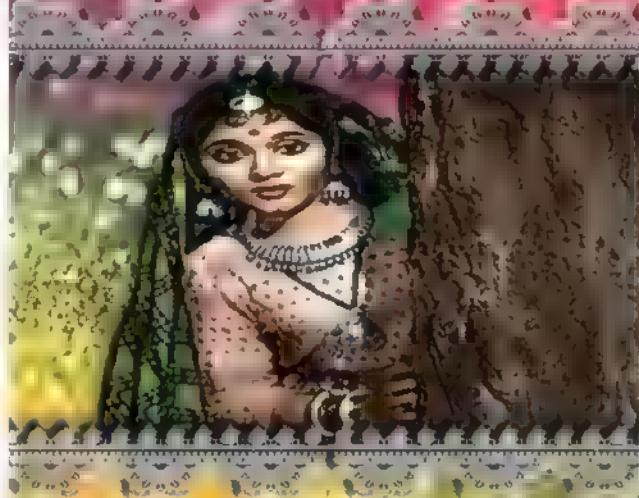
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for more information visit [birminghamlgbt.org.uk](http://birminghamlgbt.org.uk)





# Hotter Than Hell

**DUA LIPA HEADLINES BIRMINGHAM PRIDE ►**

**Dua Lipa headlines the Main Stage at  
Birmingham Pride on Saturday 27 May**



**Super-sexy singer-songwriter Dua Lipa is releasing her debut album on 2 June - but even more important than that, she's performing at this month's Birmingham Pride! The Hotter Than Hell star spoke to Zone about her upcoming Midlands appearance and plenty more besides...**

**You're playing the Main Stage at Birmingham Pride this month. What can audiences expect from your headline performance?**

I'm so excited about it! Last year I did Brighton Pride, and the energy was just amazing. I'm really, really looking forward to it - it just gives me such pleasure

**And we've heard it's going to be a fully live performance with your band...**

Yeah, absolutely. It's just going to be like the live shows that I do for my own tour. My band come everywhere with me

**The theme for this year's festival is Love And Pride, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the decriminalisation of homosexuality. What message would you like to pass on to the Midlands LGBT community?**

Just be loud and proud and be free. Just do what makes you happy and be yourself!

**You're releasing your self-titled debut studio album on 2 June. Can you tell us a little bit about it?**

I'm very excited about it coming out. I feel like it's been a long time coming. It's pop, but it touches on a lot of different genres. It's very personal and autobiographical, and I've only spoken about experiences that I know. I'm nervous to see what people think and if they like it. I'm also excited to see if it's what fans were expecting or whether it surprised them.

**What's the next single set to be?**

We've just released a song called Lost In Your Light with Miguel.

**Since the start of 2017, you've released hit singles with both Sean Paul and Martin Garrix. How did that come about, and what was it like working with them?**

I've been very, very lucky to work with them. Everyone that I've worked with has been so humble and hard working, and it's been an absolute treat. I feel very lucky and grateful for the opportunities that have come about. Both Martin Garrix's and Sean Paul's teams reached out to me after listening to my work, and

they both really wanted to work with me. It's been such a magical journey!

**Are there any more collaborations on the album?**

Well, there's the Miguel one that I just mentioned, but there's also one with Coldplay's Chris Martin.

**Your tracks have notched up over 400 million views on YouTube alone in the last year. That's kind of staggering, isn't it?**

Now when you say it like that, yes, it is staggering! I had no idea myself! It's amazing to see the music being received so well. It's going to make me work harder, and it's good to know people are listening and paying attention. It's cool!

**From the age of 14, you were posting covers of your favourite songs on YouTube. Who would you say are your biggest influences in the music world?**

I've always been very influenced by Pink, Nelly Furtado and Destiny's Child. They've been the main artists that I've really looked up to.

**You grew up listening to your father, rock singer Dukagjin Lipa. He must have been a big influence with regard to your career?**

Absolutely! Growing up in a musical household and being around music all the time, it was kind of inevitable that I'd follow suit and try to make a career out of it.

**You've been spending a lot of time in LA recently. Can you see yourself moving over there permanently in the future?**

I don't know. I'm really happy living in London because I don't really get to be there that often. And if I didn't live here, I feel like I'd never get to come here. I enjoy going to LA for a couple of weeks or a few months at a time, but London will always be home.

**Finally, what does the future hold for Dua Lipa?**

Lots of touring, and obviously the album is coming out soon. So hopefully lots of travelling the world, doing what I love and doing lots of it - I'm excited to see where it takes me!

# What's On

Sun 30 April - Sun 7 May



## The relaunch of Glamorous

### The Drag With No Name in the Midlands!

The hilarious crowd surfing, tall-wig-wearing drag queen from Brighton heads back to the Midlands for a couple of nights of cabaret. With her hysterical reimaginings of hit songs and clever sketches you can catch her...

**Friday 5 May, Village Inn, Birmingham**

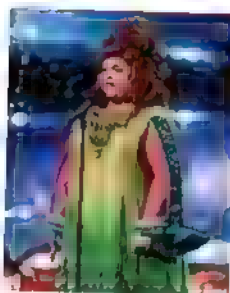
**Saturday 6 May, White Hart, Wolverhampton**



The Vivienne, the UK's ambassador to popular US drag talent show RuPaul's Drag Race, will be helping to relaunch Birmingham gay venue Glamorous, following its expansive refurbishment, on the second Bank Holiday Sunday of the month.

**Sunday 30 April - Glamorous, Birmingham**

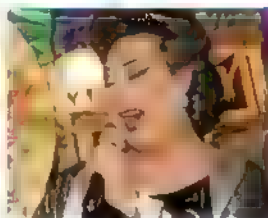
### Ruby Murry Bank Holiday Special



Get along to see Britain's Got Talent's Ruby Murry, and enjoy a night of song and comedy.

**Sunday 30 April, Eden, Birmingham**

### Lady Imelda



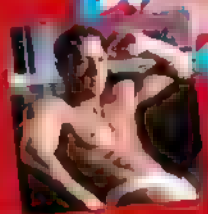
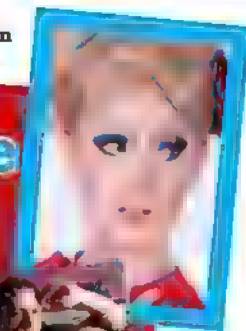
You can catch Lady Imelda for a Bank Holiday Special in city - ahead of her Birmingham Pride performance - we've loved her long time!

**Sun 30 April - The Village Inn, Birmingham**

### Extremely Tanya Hyde at LipGloss - Side

The monthly LipGloss night returns to Eden, featuring cabaret from Tanya Hyde and stripped Extreme, hosted by Miss Marty.

**Friday 5 May, Eden Bar, Birmingham**



### Miss Penny in Shrewsbury!

The fabulous Miss Penny heads back to Shropshire venue C.21 for a night of cabaret. She'll no doubt have you laughing and dancing the night away.

**Monday 1 May, C:21, Shrewsbury**

### Roman Kemp DJ set at Totally Gorgeous



Party the night away at Wolverhampton's award winning gay club on this month's second Bank Holiday Sunday, as Totally Gorgeous brings you an exclusive DJ set from Capital FM's Roman Kemp. There's support from DJs Shaun Baxter and Davey Ecco too.

**Sunday 30 April, Gorgeous, Wolverhampton**

# May Entertainment

eden

**Fri 1st** **Lip Gloss**

For the transgender community, their admirers and friends.

**Thurs 14th** **La Voix**

Britain's Got Talent Semi-Finalist  
Great Vocals & Comedy

**Sat 13th** **Niki Evans**

X-Factor Finalist  
West End Star of Blood Brothers

**Sat 13th** **Eurovision**

Watch the Eurovision Song Contest on the Big Screen!

**Thurs 25th** **Danny Beard**

With the Birmingham FINAL of Drag Idol 2017

**Fri 26th** **MidsBears**

Monthly Meet-Up Bears, Cubs, Otters, and their admirers

**EUROVISION**  
SONG CONTEST  
LIVERPOOL 2017



**MIDSBEARS**

**Sat 27th**  
**HEADLINE ACTS**

Former Sugababe  
**Mutya Buena**  
Push The Button · Freak Like Me

**Sonique**  
Feels So Good · I Put A Spell On You

**Katherine Ellis**  
Dreaming · La Musica · When You Touch Me

**Ray Quinn**  
That's Life · Mr Bojangles · Mack The Knife

**S Club Party**

Bring It All Back · Reach · Two In A Million

**Jaki Graham**

Set Me Free · Say I'm Your Number One

**Angie Brown**

I'm Gonna Get You · Rockin' For Myself

**Seann Miley Moore**

Show Must Go On · Life On Mars

**Sun 28th**  
**HEADLINE ACTS**

*Every Fri*

**DJ NIKKI**  
Karaoke & Disco

*Every Sat*

**DJ Dan**  
Charts & 80's from 2am

*Every Sun*

**DJ NIKKI**  
Karaoke & Disco

# What's On

Mon 8 - Sun 14 May

## X-Factor & West End Star Niki Evans back in Brum!

Tell Me It's Not True. Well, it is and we can't wait to see the fab-u lous West End star Niki Evans back on stage in Birmingham. She'll be singing an array of songs - and we hope she might gives us a rendition of the Blood Brothers musical lead song Tell Me It's Not True too!

Sat 13 May, Eden Bar, Birmingham

## Eurovision Parties

Yes, it's that time of year again - it's like Christmas Day for gays (well for some of us anyway!) It's the time of year that we organise Eurovision parties up and down the UK - and throughout Europe!

And what better way to spend it with a gang of your friends watching it on the **'BIG SCREEN'**!

Well you can do that at either Sidewalk or Eden Bar - in Birmingham - or both! You could even do a pub crawl back and forth after every song between the two bars!

**Sidewalk's Eurovision week is from 9-13 May** and is hosted by their own resident drag queen **Morgan Spice**

Meanwhile, **Eden Bar** will be offering a big **final night on the Saturday** in their Marquee - reserve your table now!



## Miss Penny at The Village Inn



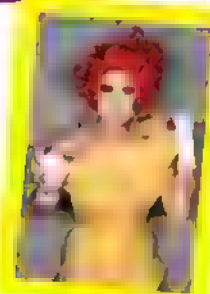
Miss Penny is back in her home town of Birmingham playing The Village Inn. Expect comedy and music as she raises the roof!

**Friday 12 May**  
**The Village Inn,**  
**Birmingham**

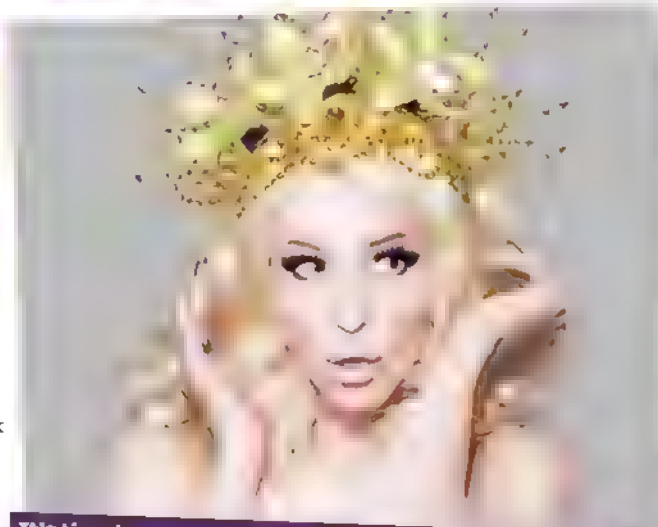
## La Voix back at Eden

Britain's Got Talent's La Voix - who was last year voted Best National Cabaret Act in the Midlands Zone Readers' Awards - returns to Eden for another entertaining evening!

**Thursday 11 May**  
**Eden, Birmingham**



## Vicki Vivacious Live!



**It's time to party over in Leicester with Vicki Vivacious at The Dover Castle! Show Time is 10pm, so don't be late and they're open through until 2am!**

**Fri 12 May, Dover Castle, Leicester**

# MAY

FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup>  
**DRAG WITH  
NO NAME**

FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup>  
**MISS PENNY**

FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup>  
**KELLY WILDE**

PRE PRIDE SPECIAL  
FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup>  
**SANDRA LONDON**



## THE VILLAGE INN



VILLAGEINNBIRMINGHAM



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THEVILLAGEBIRMINGHAM

# What's On

Mon 15 - Sun 21 May



She's been around for quite a few years and has a great following - including at The Village Inn where she'll be entertaining the crowd ahead of her performance in the Cabaret Marquee at Birmingham Pride

**Friday 19 May - The Village Inn, Birmingham**



Remember there is NO XXL Birmingham on the usual third Friday in May - as it moves to Friday 26 May as a Birmingham Pride Special! We can't wait!



## La Queefa's Karaoke

If you're in the mood to sing ya tits off - then every Tuesday it's Karaoke Night at Missing hosted by award-winning cabaret artiste Laqueefa

**Every Tuesday - Missing Bar, Birmingham**

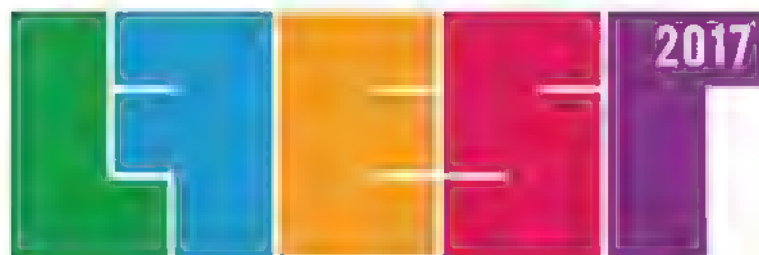


## Steps Reunion Party



Could this be a "Tragedy"? We think not! Who doesn't like a great bit of camp pop to dance-a-long to? So if you're a Steps fan and would like to celebrate their reunion together get along to Gossip!

**Saturday 20 May - Gossip, Stoke-On-Trent**



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# What's On

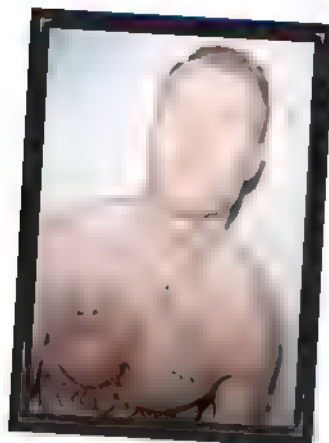
Mon 22 - Sun 28 May



Hot on the heels of his Best National Cabaret Act win in this year's Midlands Zone Readers' Awards, the glorious Danny Beard here returns to Birmingham on Thursday 25 May he's also appearing over the Pride weekend too.

**Thursday 25 May Eden Bar, Birmingham**

## Hercules & Love Affair DJ at Blank



There's a special treat in store for fans of the band Hercules & Love Affair, as band member Andy Butler will be appearing at Blank. (Top Floor of The Nightingale) performing an exclusive DJ set along side RAF Daddy, Dan Beaumont, Hannah Holland plus the Blank Residents.

Sunday sees Honey Soundsystem, Jonjo Jury and Handsome.

**Saturday 27 May  
Blank, Birmingham**

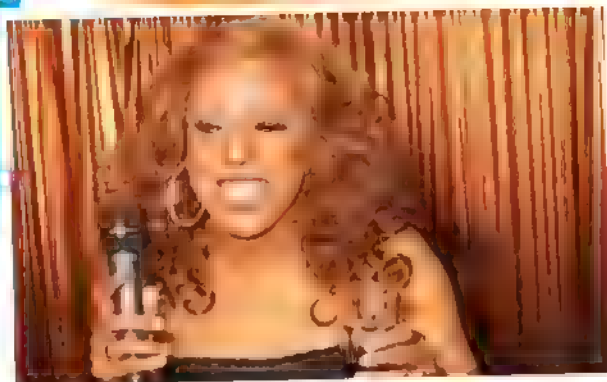
## £1.50 Bombs every Thursday at Sidewalk

If you're a fan of Jagerbombs, Skittlebombs or Buccabombs, then Sidewalk is the place to be every Thursday. You can get these, along with many more flavours for just £1.50! Bombs away kids, bombs away.

**Sidewalk, Birmingham**

## Sandra back for 3 days of Pride

It's the start of the great Bank Holiday weekend that is Birmingham Pride - and what better way to start it off than in The Village Inn - with the whore of 'Hampstead Heath' Sandra London performing her regular last Friday of the month residency!



The Midlands' biggest and boldest men only club night XXL will host a Birmingham Pride Special this month on Friday 26 May With Ministry of Sound DJ Paul Morrell providing the soundtrack to the night, the award winning event sees hundreds of men from bears to cubs and everything in between partying the night away

**Friday 26 May- The Core Club, Birmingham**

# THE BIGGEST GAY

MONDAY NIGHT IN THE MIDLANDS!



**FREE  
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BEFORE  
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10PM-3AM



**MON 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY  
MISS PENNY**

**MON 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
TINA SPARKLE**

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# What's On

Sat 27 - Sun 28 May



## Eden Bar's HUGE Pride line-up

Award-winning gay venue Eden Bar has a cracking line-up for the Birmingham Pride weekend! Saturday 27th sees former Sugababe Mutya Buena take to the venue's stage. She's also joined by 'Feels So Good' star Sonique, Freemasons vocal ist Katherine Ellis and hunky X Factor star Ray Quinn. There's also cabaret from

the fantastic Mary Mac, Brenda LaBeau and Fanny Burns. The fun doesn't stop there though! Sunday 28th sees a throwback to the Noughties with Tina, Jo and Bradley from S Club getting you in the mood with S Club Party. 'Set Me Free' vocalist Jaki Graham, Bizarre Inc star Angie Brown

and X Factor's Seann Miley Moore are all set to perform on the day too. And don't forget, there's cabaret from La Voix, Danny Beard, Ruby Murray and The Flurettes too! Oh, and don't forget - it's free entry all weekend!

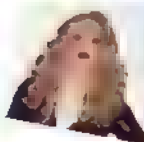
**Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 May - Eden Bar, Birmingham**



## The Vivienne at Glamorous

Cabaret bar Glamorous will see an impressive line-up of cabaret on across the Pride weekend - featuring The Viaduct Showgirls and Miss Match on Saturday 27 May - whilst Sunday 28 May sees the fabulous The Vivienne, Gavina Vagina and Misty Lee rocking the stage...

**Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 May  
Glamorous, Birmingham**



## Life is a cabaret

The Pride weekend at Missing Bar isn't one to miss if you're a big fan of cabaret! From 6pm on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 May, there'll be cabaret galore from the likes of Twiggy, Alfie Ordinary, Lydia L'scabies, Crystal Lubrikunt, Cherry Liquor, LaQueefa, Vildea Moppe and more!

Not only that, but there's music and karaoke from DJs Mike Emery, Wanda Why and the Divine Miss M!

It's going to be a fantastic and fun weekend at one of Brum's favourite venues!

THE UK'S BIGGEST PRIDE FESTIVAL  
SATURDAY 5TH AUGUST 2017



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LEGENDS

# What's On

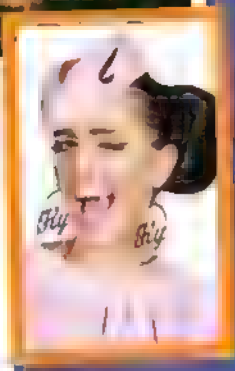
Arts • Theatre • Entertainment



## Rent

Who would ever fancy a night at the opera if they could toe tap their way through an exuberant rock musical instead? Nobody in our office, that's for sure. So why endure Puccini's *La Bohème* (we know, we know, we're such philistines!) when you can enjoy pretty much the same story by seeing *Rent*? Jonathan Larson's award winning play focuses on a year in the lives of a small circle of friends and artists in New York's East Village, doing their best to live and love in the looming shadow of the AIDS epidemic.

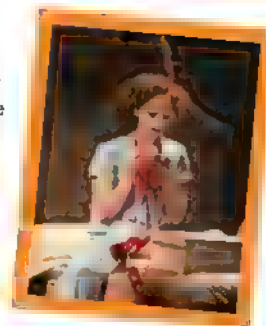
**Tues 9 - Sat 13 May**  
Belgrade Theatre, Coventry



## The Red Shoes

The team at Zone may not 'get' opera (see our accompanying preview of *Rent*, just over to the left and down a bit), but we do enjoy a nice bit of dance. With that fact in mind, we've been utterly delighted by Matthew Bourne's sumptuous new adaptation of the greatest dance movie ever made (Oh yes it is! So hush your protesting mouths, you Dirty Dancing adorers!). Inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's famous fairytale, the story focuses on a pair of enchanted shoes that force their wearer to dance until she dies... Personally speaking, we'd have returned 'em to the shop and demanded our money back, but that's just us

**Tues 16 - Sat 20 May - Curve Leicester**  
**Wed 19 - Sat 22 July - Birmingham Hippodrome**



## Pam Ann: Touch Trolley Run To Galley

Pam Ann has been a household name since the 1980s, when she was a member of the comedy troupe The Goodies. She has since become a successful author and television presenter. In this show, she takes the audience on a tour of her life, from her early days in the comedy world to her current success as a writer and presenter. The show is a mix of humor and personal anecdotes, and is sure to be a hit with anyone who has ever been a fan of Pam Ann.

**Wed 31 May**  
Birmingham Town Hall

## The Laramie Project



## The Handmade Fair

Presented by sexy Phil Spencer's terrifically partner, Kirstie Allsopp, The Handmade Fair brings together Britain's best handmade products, crafts supplies and artisan foods. Highlights include 250 crafters a-crafting, a variety of interactive skills workshops run by hand picked experts, and a shopper's village replete with terrifically tasty tucker supplied by an astounding assortment of quirky caterers

**Fri 12 - Sun 14 May**  
Ragley Hall, Warwickshire

**'ONE OF THE MOST LAVISH SHOWS YOU WILL EVER SEE.  
BREATHTAKING. SIMPLY AMAZING'**

ETILE MAGAZINE

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**LA CAGE AUX FOLLES** MUSIC & LYRICS BY **JERRY HERMAN** BOOK BY **HARVEY FIERSTEIN** BASED ON THE PLAY BY **JEAN POIRET**  
DIRECTED BY **MARTIN CONNOR** STAGE MANAGER BY **BILL DEAMER** DESIGN BY **GARY MCCANN** MUSIC & SOUND BY **RICHARD MAWBET**

ALSO FEATURING

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AND OF COURSE

**LES CAGELLES**

FEATURING THE HIT SONGS... **I AM WHAT I AM** \* **THE BEST OF TIMES** \* **WITH YOU ON MY ARM**...AND MORE

**H BIRMINGHAM  
HIPPODROME**

**TUE 16 - SAT 20 MAY**

**0844 338 5000 [birminghamhippodrome.com](http://birminghamhippodrome.com)**

Adults only. 4.50 per seat plus an admin charge, 10% transportation charge, applies excluding seats close to stage.

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from £22.50\*

\*Tickets include a £1 booking fee. No booking fee applies if booked online.

# Ruby Wax



## Quentin Crisp: Naked Hope

As camp as Crispmas (see what we did there?), Quentin Crisp certainly had a talent for outrageous self publicity. Back in the mid-20th century, mincing around in gaudy makeup and dying your hair crimson was a pretty good way for a gay man to get himself not only noticed but also duffed up on the streets of London – and Quentin certainly bagged a beating or two en route to the fame and fragility of his old age.

This promises to be a 'glorious, uplifting celebration of the urgent necessity to be your true self.'

**Fri 5 & Sat 6 May - Old Joint Stock Theatre, Birmingham**

## Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone

**In Concert With Full Live Orchestra**

This latest touring attraction for fans of JK Rowling's wizarding world features a high definition screening of the very first Potter movie. It's accompanied by a live Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra performance of John Williams' greatly admired score to the film.

Wands at the ready, boys!

**Thurs 15 May, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham**

## KT Tunstall

Seriously sensational Scottish superstar KT Tunstall came to public attention with her 2004 debut album, *Eye To The Telescope*. In little more than the wee blink of an eye, she'd won both BRIT and Ivor Novello awards, earning Grammy and Mercury Prize nominations into the bargain. Hit singles include *Black Horse* and *The Cherry Tree* and *Suddenly I See*.

**Sat 27 May  
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry**



## La Cage aux Folles

See the Saint's hope, mightn't it? *La Cage aux Folles* tells the story of a man's gay manager, Georges, his romantic partner, Albin, and the problems that ensue when Georges is coming home to his parents, ultra-conservative parents.

On Parade, alongside its musical score, has not only plenty of other talents besides, in the most magical of musicals. Marti Webb and Adrian Zmed are the stars.

**Tues 16 Sat 20 May Birmingham Hippodrome**



## WIN! A pair of weekend tickets to **V FESTIVAL**

**V Festival** - one of the UK's biggest and best annual music extravaganzas - returns to the Midlands in the late summer, and we're giving you the chance to win a pair of weekend and general admission tickets to the Weston Park event on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 August.

The one and only Pink is returning to V, she debuted at the festival 10 years ago, and will be ready to get the party started! She'll be joined by global icon (and lucky husband of Beyoncé) Jay Z, who's notched up a staggering 100 million record sales, making him one of the best-selling artists of all time!

There's plenty more in store across the weekend too, including appearances from Ellie Goulding, Stormzy, Craig David, Dizzee Rascal, Jason Derulo, Rudimental, Sean Paul, Pete Tong, Jess Glynne, Clean Bandit, Sigma, Gorgon City and many, many more!

For more information or to buy tickets, visit [vfestival.com](http://vfestival.com)

To enter this competition, simply visit our Facebook page at [fb.com/MidlandsZone](https://www.facebook.com/MidlandsZone), like our page and share our V Festival post! We'll pick one winner at random on Wednesday 31 May! Good luck!



## WIN! A pair of weekend camping tickets for **L FEST**



The UK's biggest and best annual lesbian festival, **L Fest**, returns to Staffordshire this year - and we've teamed up with the event to give away a pair of weekend camping tickets worth £200 to one lucky reader!

**For a chance to win a pair of weekend camping tickets worth £200 to one lucky reader, simply visit our Facebook page at [fb.com/MidlandsZone](https://www.facebook.com/MidlandsZone), like our page and share our L Fest post! We'll pick one winner at random on Wednesday 31 May! Good luck!**

**What is L Fest?**  
L Fest is the UK's biggest and best annual lesbian festival, returning to Staffordshire this year. It's a weekend of music, dancing, and social activities, all for a good cause. The festival is held at Weston Park, a beautiful location in the heart of the Midlands.

**At which venue is the annual L Fest event being held in 2017?**

- A) The Palace
- B) The Belgrade Theatre
- C) The Royal Hall

## WIN! A pair of tickets to see **RENT**

We're giving four lucky readers the chance to catch Bruce Guthrie's brand new production of the legendary, multi-award-winning musical **RENT**, which is this year celebrating its 20th anniversary.

This exhilarating, landmark musical tells the story of a group of impoverished young artists struggling to survive in New York City's East Village during the thriving days of Bohemian excess.

**RENT** shows at the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, from Tuesday 9 to Saturday 13 May

Tickets are on sale now and are available at [belgrade.co.uk](http://belgrade.co.uk).

We've teamed up with the fine folks at the Belgrade to give you a chance to win one of four pairs of tickets.

To enter this competition, all you need to do is visit [midlandszone.co.uk](http://midlandszone.co.uk) and answer this simple question:

**Which anniversary is **RENT** celebrating this year?**

- A) 20th
- B) 25th
- C) 30th

Competition closes on Friday 5 May



THE UK'S BIGGEST

#BrumPride

# Birmingham pride

SAT 27 + SUN 28 MAY 2017

BIRMINGHAM GAY VILLAGE

## THE BIG WEEKENDER:

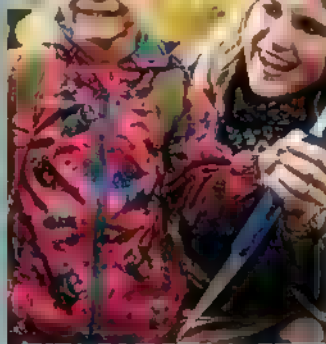
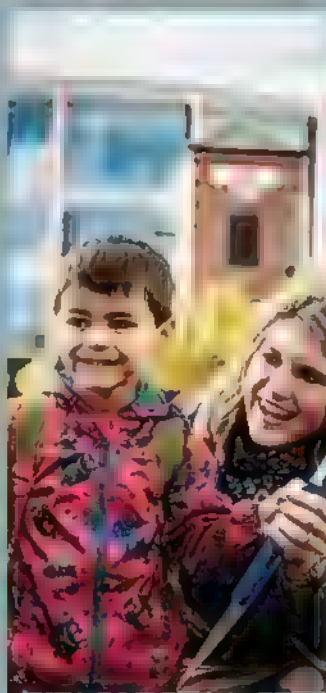
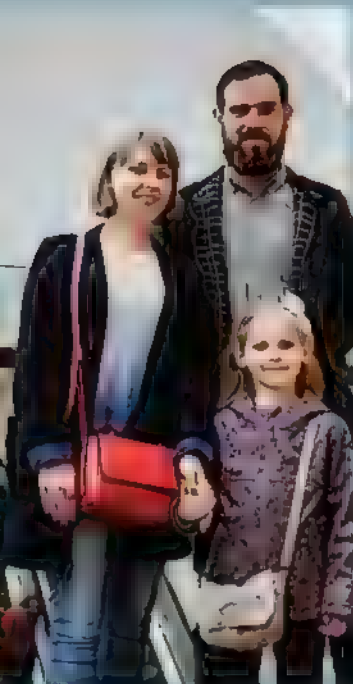
MAIN STAGE: BUA LIPA, BASEMENT JAXX, GABRIELLE, SIGALA, JONAS BLUE, SOPHIE ELLIS-BEXTON, LOUISA JOHNSON, M.O, JAMELIA BONEY M, RAYE, CHARLOTTE CHURCH, SAARA AALTO, HENRIKES & LOVE AFFAIR, NADIA ROSE, BETSY, SEANNI MILEY MOORE, PINK ANGELS, CAPITAL B, DJ PAUL MORRELL, AUSTIN ARMACOST, GEORGE SHELLEY  
DANCE ARENA: TODD TERRY, TROUSSE OFFICIAL, NANCIE KISSY SELL OUT THE STICKMEN, JAMIE DUGGAN, RYAN BLYTH & MALISHA BLEAU, KELLY LEIGH, PETER GRAHAM, RILEY, JAY, JAMES SILVER, BRANDON ROSS OAKLEY, JADE MARIE, BASH TURNER, SAKIN O, CAIYU PEARCE M, PHIL J, LARRY MAN, MARG SPENCE, TOM SHORTERZ, JIMMY HUNT, BEANER  
DONKIE PUNCH, ANDRE ASKOUR, DAN HAGNIS, MARCUS JAMES, WAYNE N, MARK LEVITT, STUNTY 'COOKIE' COOKE, CABARET MANDREE, D'E EXPERIENCE TOPPING & BUTCH  
VICKY JACKSON, SANDRA, LOLA LASAGNE, MISS JASMIN, TANYA HYDE, SON OF A TUTU, KELLY WILDE, TUPPER REDFERN, KARA VAN PARK, MISS MARTY, TWIGGY  
MISS PENNY, BAGA CHIPZ, MAISIE TROLETTE, THE DIVINE MISS M, SOMEONE AT THE DOOR, MISS THUNDERPUSSY, DRAG WITH NO NAME, CHAMPAGNE SHIMLEY  
LADY MELBA, DAVINA DE CAMPO, CHEDDAR GORGEOUS, VICKI VIVACIOUS, AMY LA QUEEFA, MARTHA D'ARTHUR, DAVINA VAGINA, ALT CLUB STAGE: CAKES DA KILLA  
DAI BURGER, HI-KU, BITCH SLAP, MUT CLUB, DJ JAY, JAY REVILON, FT. LONDON, BALLROOM SCENE, KILLGLASS, MYKKI BLANCO, PXSSE PALACE, CLUB FIENCE, MONO  
BITCH SLAP, WOMEN'S ARENA: LAUREN HOYLE, LUCY BROWN, ELLE ROBERTSON, LA QUEEFA, NINEFOUR, FIVE BAGLEY, REYNA WASHBROOK, ZARA SYKES, ESTHER  
TURNER, BETH PRIOR, MADI SASKIA, CALL ME UNIQUE, LUCY & ELLIE, DJ KID, DJ MET, DJ WYNNIE, DJ BIATCH & JAY, DJ BELLA, DJ DANNI CARA, DJ LISA SHARRED

ALHAMBRA

CFO

[www.birminghampride.com](http://www.birminghampride.com)

# All kinds of BIRMINGHAM



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Birmingham City Council

**#BrumPride**

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[www.birminghampride.com](http://www.birminghampride.com)

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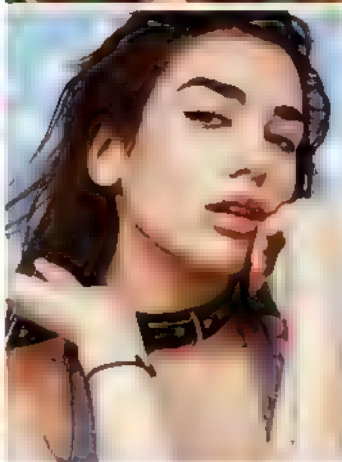
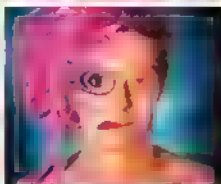
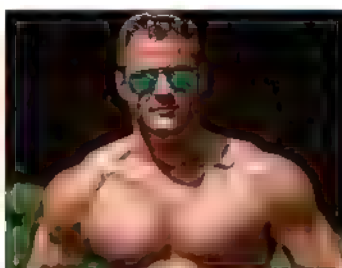
**FACEBOOK:** fb.com/PrideBirmingham

**INSTAGRAM:** @BirminghamPrideOfficial

LIVE TWITTER FEEDS THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL

Get handy tips during the festival, and artists' timings as they happen

# Welcome to Birmingham Pride



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A very warm welcome to Birmingham Pride 2017. It's incredible to think how far Pride has travelled since 1997, particularly in more recent years. The event continues to bring together the LGBTQ community with the wider community, and has a strong resonance in the city, the region and beyond.

Birmingham is a city truly proud of its cultural diversity. The Pride festival is a golden opportunity to recognise the rich tapestry of races, cultures and communities which come together to celebrate our equality and freedom. May I wish everyone who attends Birmingham Pride 2017 a very happy, safe and memorable time.



**Lawrence Barton - Birmingham Pride Festival Director**



# History Herstory My story.

Introducing  
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at HSBC.

#HSBCPride  
#onwards

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HSBC 



# Love & Pride

## 50 years since the decriminalisation of homosexuality... 1967-2017



**This year marks a half century since the decriminalisation of homosexuality in the United Kingdom, so it's fitting that the Birmingham Pride 2017 theme is Love & Pride, in recognition of this momentous anniversary.**

Back in 1967, the Sexual Offences Act decriminalised homosexual acts between two men in private. The move was a first step on the long road towards the equality that the LGBT community enjoys today. Since that landmark year, laws have been challenged, rights have been won, stigmas broken and lives changed

So how did we get to that landmark moment in LGBT history? Rewind to the 1960s, when Member of Parliament Leo Abse and House of Lords peer Lord Arran put forward proposals to amend the law for homosexual men, changing the way they were treated by introducing the Sexual Offences Bill

They saw the Bill as a way to make attitudes towards gay people more liberal, a change which they felt was much needed following a staggering rise in the number of prosecutions of homosexual men.

The 1965 Sexual Offences Bill used findings from the 1957 Wolfenden Report, which suggested that certain homosexual offences should be decriminalised - 'offences' at which you wouldn't even bat an eyelid these days.

The committee which oversaw the report was set up to investigate prostitution and homosexuality. As a result, they found that criminal law couldn't intervene in the 'private sexual affairs of consenting adults' behind closed doors

In short, the Wolfenden committee said that: "Unless a deliberate attempt be made by society

through the agency of the law to equate the sphere of crime with that of sin, there must remain a realm of private that is, in brief, not the law's business."

Following the publication of this report, the Labour government of the time showed support for Lord Arran's liberal thinking and put the Bill through parliament. It was considered that the law should not penalise gay men, who were already subject to much 'ridicule and denision'.

Roy Jenkins, the home secretary in 1967, commented that gay men "suffer from this disability" and "carry a great weight of shame". His remarks essentially summed up the government's perspective on homosexuality.

The Bill received royal assent on 27 July 1967 after a late-night debate in the House of Commons. Once it had become law, decriminalising homosexuality, the age of consent was set at 21. It wasn't until 1994 that this was reduced to 18, and only in the year 2000 was it reduced to 16 - the same age as the heterosexual age of consent.

So what does all of this mean for us today? Well, freedom for one thing. And whilst LGBT communities across the world still don't enjoy many of the freedoms that we do here in Britain, the Love & Pride-themed Birmingham Pride festival will use the 50th anniversary of the decriminalisation of homosexuality to celebrate, educate, inspire and raise funds.



# San Francisco

**DIRECT** from  
Manchester Airport





**This year's theme...**  
**Love & Pride**

It will wind its way around the city centre and then down to the top of Hurst Street, by the Birmingham Hippodrome



A map of Birmingham city center showing a walking route. The route starts at a black box labeled 'START' on New Street. It follows New Street past the Birmingham New Street Station (marked with a red double-headed arrow icon). The route turns right onto St Martin's Circus, then left onto Bullring, then left onto Indoor Market, then left onto Smallbrook Queensway, then left onto Holloway Circus, then left onto Birmingham Hippodrome, and finally left onto Wholesale Market. The route ends at a pink circle labeled 'FINISH'. Other landmarks shown include the Rotunda, The New Theatre, and the Bullring. A red double-headed arrow icon is also shown on St Martin's Circus.



It may not be too late to get involved and enter a float!  
Anyone interested in participating in the parade should  
urgently contact **peter@birminghampride.com**  
or call **0121 622 5255**



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# Ticket & Wristband Info



## Buying Discounted Advance Tickets

ONLINE: [www.birminghampride.com](http://www.birminghampride.com) IN PERSON: Clonezone Birmingham

### TICKET / WRISTBAND EXCHANGE:

**If you have purchased a ticket either online or from a ticket outlet, you will need to exchange your ticket for a wristband**

#### TICKET/WRISTBAND EXCHANGE IN ADVANCE:

Ticket/Wristband Exchange will be available a couple of days in advance from **The Nightingale Club** on Kent Street, from: **4pm until 12 midnight on Thursday 25** and also from midday to midnight on **Friday 26 May**

#### TICKET/WRISTBAND EXCHANGE BOOTHS

This is **ONLY** available at the top of Hurst Street (just down from the Birmingham Hippodrome theatre on Inge Street) at the following times  
**Sat 27 May from 9am until 10pm**  
**Sun 28 May from 11am until 8pm**

Please note: Delays are expected between 11am and 2pm on Saturday 27 May due to the volume of people - so try and avoid these times if at all possible.

*If you're a member of the Pride crew, staff or a Southside resident and you've been sanctioned with a wristband, your ticket/wristband exchange is on Bromsgrove Street!*

## Buying a Wristband on the day

If you haven't purchased a ticket in advance, you will be able to buy a Wristband over the Pride weekend.

Prices are (no concessions):

**Day Wristbands £30**

**Weekend Wristbands £40**

**Pride At Night Evening**

**Wristbands (after 9pm) £20**

#### CASH PURCHASES

Day and Weekend Wristbands over the Pride festival can be purchased by cash at all entry/exit points - see the map on page 11 for the locations of the different wristband pay booths.

**CREDIT CARDS:** If you want to buy WRISTBANDS over the Pride weekend using a Credit/Debit card, this is **ONLY** available at the top of

Hurst Street (just down from the Birmingham Hippodrome theatre)

**IN ADVANCE:** Save £££s and get your tickets in advance from [www.birminghampride.com](http://www.birminghampride.com)



**UNDER 5s GO FREE!**  
WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

## Important Wristband info...

Wristbands must be securely fastened or may be void.

Wristbands must be intact, in one piece and worn at all times

Torn or ripped wristbands will not be

accepted for entry.

Lost wristbands will not be replaced under any circumstances, and if you are not wearing a valid wristband, you will be asked to leave the festival site.

Wristbands are not transferable between visitors

Wristbands are required for drink purchases at all venues and outdoor bars within the main festival site.

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# Pride Map



Have a safe + happy

#BrumPride

# WOMMO

**3 DAY**  
**CLUB PASS**  
**£14**

# 19

**3 FLOORS**

**4 ROOMS**

**6 BARS**

**CAMP - HIP HOP**  
**R'N'B - HOUSE**  
**BASHMENT - POP**  
**CHART**

# PHOBIA Gay

**TICKETS**

[WWW.NIGHTINGALECLUB.CO.UK](http://WWW.NIGHTINGALECLUB.CO.UK)

18 KENT STREET B5 6RD

0121 622 1718





HEADLINER:

DUA LIPA



HEADLINER:

JONAS BLUE



LOUISA JOHNSON



NADIA ROSE



M.O



HERCULES & LOVE AFFAIR

Follow us on TWITTER for performance times during the day @BirminghamPride



# Main Stage

## Saturday 27 May

HEADLINER

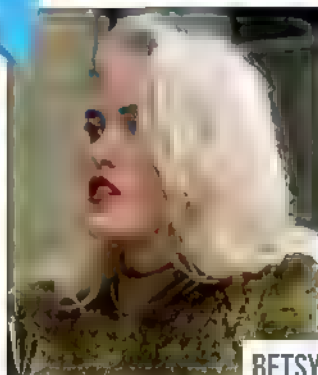
### BASEMENT JAXX



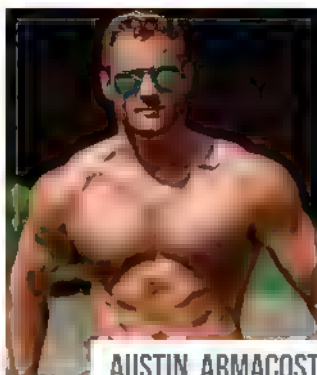
SAARA AALTO



RAYE



BETSY



AUSTIN ARMACOST



PINK ANGELS

1PM-3PM

WE LOVE POP (DJ SET)  
SOMEONE AT THE DOOR

REIGNS

PINK ANGELS

BETSY

3PM-6PM

NADIA ROSE

HERCULES & LOVE AFFAIR

SAARA AALTO

RAYE

6PM-9PM

M.O

LOUISA JOHNSON

DUA LIPA

BASEMENT JAXX

(DJ SET)

9PM-MIDNIGHT

SACHA BROOKS

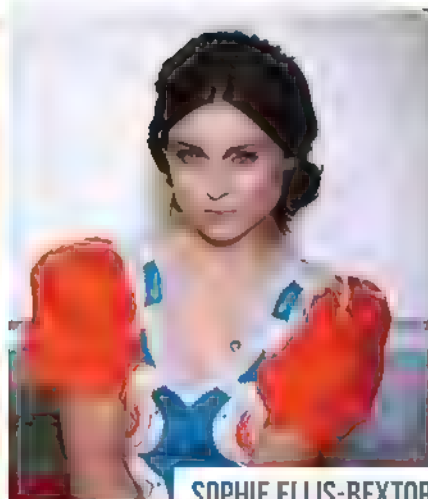
JONAS BLUE

HOSTS: AUSTIN ARMACOST  
SACHA BROOKS & COREY

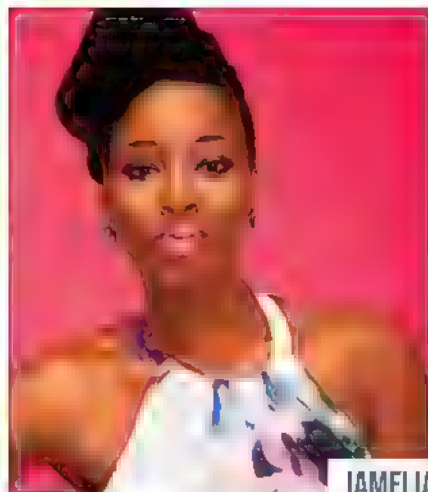


HEADLINER:

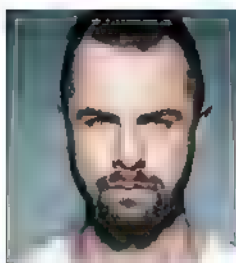
**GABRIELLE**



**SOPHIE ELLIS-BEXTOR**



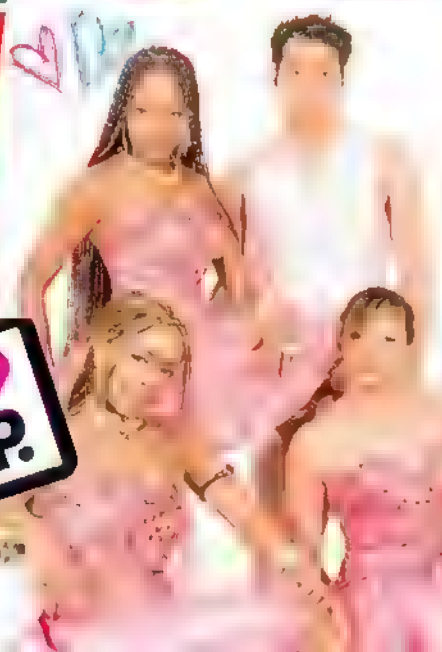
**JAMELIA**



**DJ PAUL MORRELL**



**CAPITAL B**



**BONEY M**



Follow us on TWITTER for performance times during the day (@BirminghamPride)

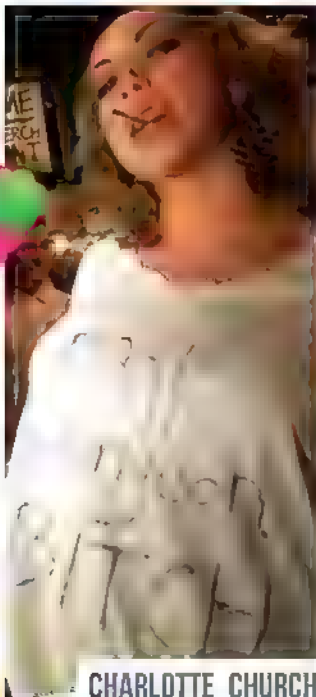


# Main Stage

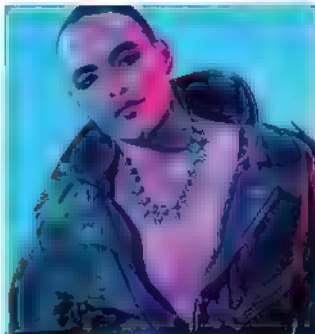
## Sunday 28 May

HEADLINER:

**SIGALA**



CHARLOTTE CHURCH



SEANN MILEY MOORE



GEORGE SHELLEY

1PM-3PM

WE LOVE POP (DJ SET)

ROSIE O'SULLIVAN

CAPITAL 8

3PM-6PM

SEANN MILEY MOORE

CHARLOTTE CHURCH'S

POP DUNGEON

GABRIELLE

6PM-9PM

JAMELIA

BONEY M

SOPHIE ELLIS-BEXTOR

SIGALA (DJ SET)

9PM-MIDNIGHT

PAUL MORRELL (DJ SET)

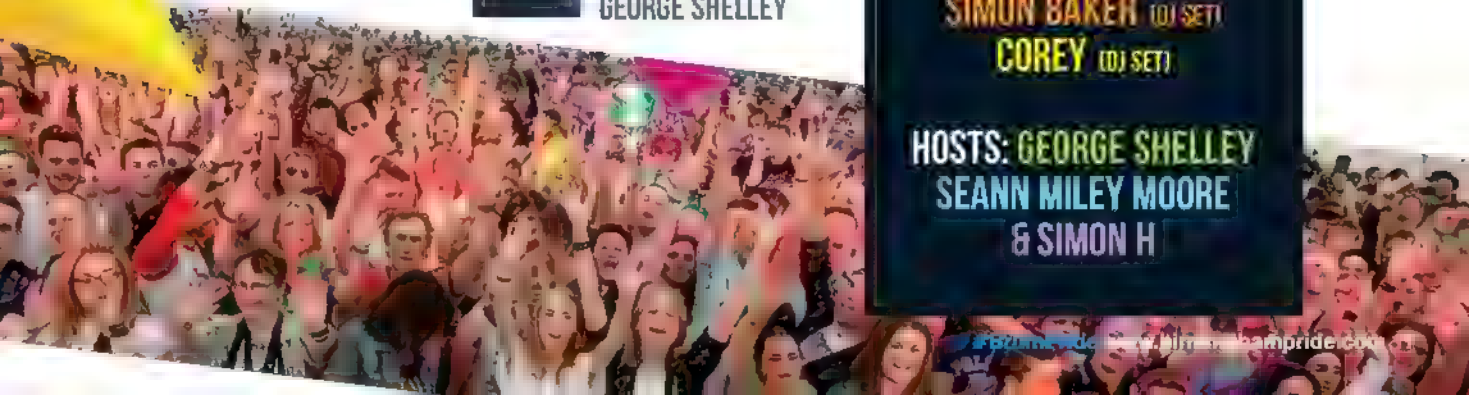
SIMON BAKER (DJ SET)

COREY (DJ SET)

HOSTS: GEORGE SHELLEY

SEANN MILEY MOORE

& SIMON H





Birmingham

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BIG WEEKENDER

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TOUGH LOVE

Jamie  
Duggan

KISSY  
COUTURE

KELLI-LEIGH

THE  
STORM

OFFICIAL  
NURSE

TOM  
SHORTERZ

PIANO  
VOICE

BECK  
WATSON

IS

THE  
BIG

CHICK  
ZIGGY

THE  
ZIGGY

THE  
ZIGGY

MIKE • BLAKE • JAMIE • CORIE • DAN • JAMES

IAN • MARK & ASLEY TURNER • JAMES SILVER • LARRY HAN

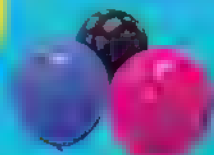
MARKUS JAMES • MARK SILVER • PHILIP • PAUL • SAMUEL • WALTER

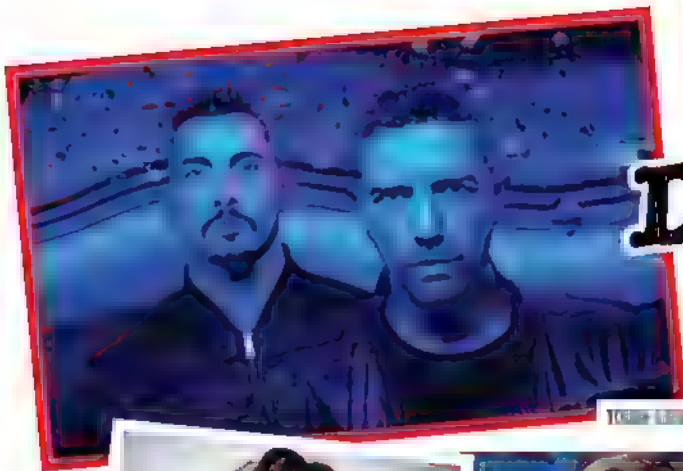
SATURDAY 27TH & SUNDAY 28TH MAY

12.00pm - 1.00pm • 1.00pm - 2.00pm

2.00pm - 3.00pm • 3.00pm - 4.00pm

4.00pm - 5.00pm • 5.00pm - 6.00pm





# Dance Arena

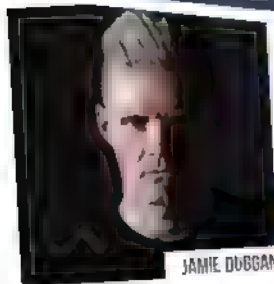
## Saturday 27 May



KELLI-LEIGH



OFFICIAL NANCIE



JAMIE DUGGAN



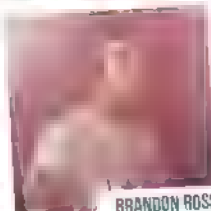
LARRY HAN



PEARCE M



PHIL J



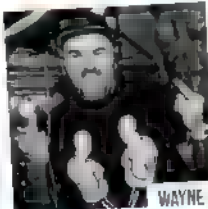
BRANDON ROSS



JADE MARIE & ASH TURNER



RUE JAY



WAYNE H



PETE GRAHAM



CAVNA



JAMES SILVER



SANDI G

12 NOON - 3PM

LARRY HAN

PEARCE M B2B PHIL J

OFFICIAL NANCIE

3PM - 6PM

BRANDON ROSS OAKLEY

JADE MARIE & ASH TURNER

RUE JAY

6PM - 9PM

TOUGH LOVE

WAYNE H

JAMIE DUGGAN

9PM - MIDNIGHT

KELLI-LEIGH

PETE GRAHAM

CAVNA

JAMES SILVER

SANDI G

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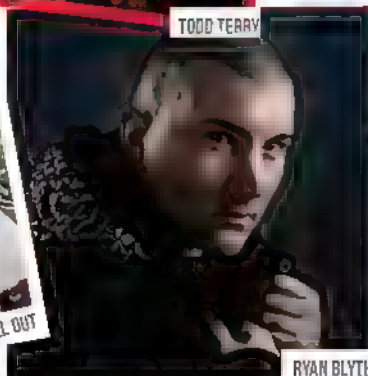


# Dance Arena

## Sunday 28 May



KISSY SELL OUT



RYAN BLYTH



THE STICKMEN



STUART 'COOKIE' COOKE



MARK LEVETT



DAN HARRIS



ANDRE AMOUR



RYAN BLYTH



DONKIE PUNCH



TOM SHORTEZ



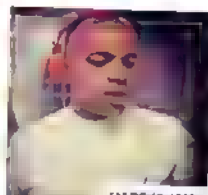
MARC SPENCE



MALISHA BLEAU



JOE HUNT



MARCUS JAMES

12 NOON - 3PM

STUART 'COOKIE' COOKE

MARK LEVETT

DAN HARRIS

ANDRE AMOUR

BEAVER

3PM - 6PM

DONKIE PUNCH

TOM SHORTEZ

KISSY SELL OUT

6PM - 9PM

MARC SPENCE

THE STICKMEN

RYAN BLYTH  
& MALISHA BLEAU

9PM - MIDNIGHT

TODD TERRY

JOE HUNT

MARCUS JAMES

The Dance Arena  
is organised and sponsored by:

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celebrate the  
**pride**

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@VILLA



AGE INN

CEBRUM  THE VILLAGE BIRMINGHAM



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MORGAN SPICE

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your  
*Thursdays*  
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Atmosphere*

*Early Bird  
Offers*

*Awesome  
Music*



*Saturdays*

**TOTAL  
SATURS-FACTION**

DJ PLAYING POP, CHART, CHEESE & CLUB ANTHEMS

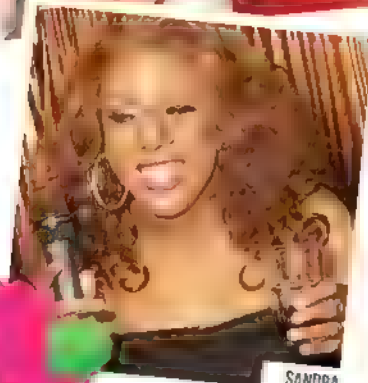
FUN & GAMES WITH OUR RESIDENT DRAG QUEEN MORGAN SPICE

# Cabaret Marquee

## Saturday 27 May



TOPPING & BUTCH



SANDRA



VICKY JACKSON



THE DIVINE MISS M



BAGA CHIPZ



SON OF A TUTU



TIARA THUNDERPUSSY



MAISIE TROLETTE



MISS JASON



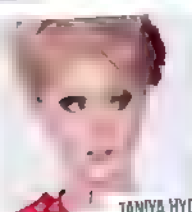
MISS PENNY



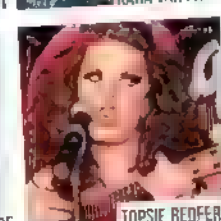
KARA VAN PARK



KELLY WILDE



TANYA HYDE



TOPSIE REDFERN



LOLA LASAGNE

**1PM-3PM**  
**SOMEONE AT THE DOOR**  
 SAMBA BAND  
**DJ: MISS PENNY**  
**REIGNS**  
**SANDRA**  
**MISS JASON**

**3PM-6PM**  
**THE DIVINE MISS M**  
**TOPPING & BUTCH**  
**VICKY JACKSON AS PINK**  
**KARA VAN PARK**

**6PM-9PM**  
**LOLA LASAGNE**  
**BAGA CHIPZ**  
**TANYA HYDE**  
**KELLY WILDE**

**9PM-MIDNIGHT**  
**TOPSIE REDFERN**  
**MAISIE TROLETTE**  
**SON OF A TUTU**

**HOSTESS: SANDRA & MISS MARTY**

The Cabaret Marquee  
 is organised by The Village Inn  
 and sponsored by

manchester  
airport

San Francisco  
Direct

*Saturday 27th May*

ALFIE ORDINARY

LYDIA L'ECABIE

CRYSTAL LUBRIKUNT

CHERRY LIQUOR

TWIGGY . VILEDA MOPPE

GAVINA . THE DIVINE MISS M

*Sunday 28th May*

CRYSTAL LUBRIKUNT

CHERRY LIQUOR

LAQUEEFA

VILEDA MOPPE

TWIGGY

GAVINA . THE DIVINE MISS M

FROM 6PM  
WITH NIGHTS

*Live! on Missing's Cabaret Marquee!*



BIRMINGHAM PRIDE WEEKENDER

DJ'S MIKE EMERY . LAQUEEFA . WANDA WHY & THE DIVINE MISS M  
PLUS KARAOKE! ALL WEEKEND IN THE ATTIC

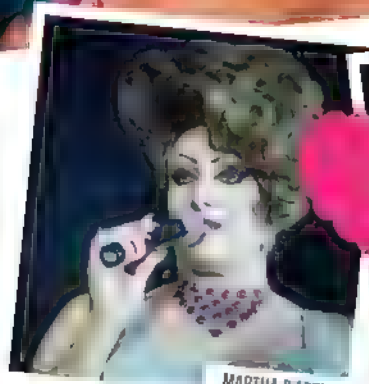
MONDAY 29TH MAY  
BIRMINGHAM PRIDE  
AFTER PARTY  
\*£1 DRINKS\*



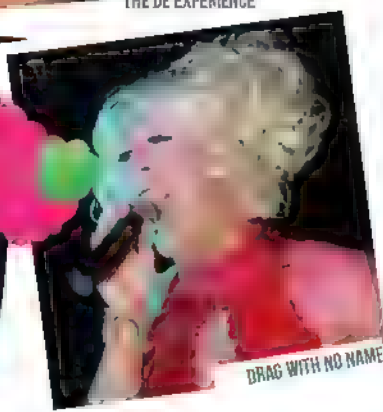
THE DE EXPERIENCE

# Cabaret Marquee

## Sunday 28 May



MARTHA D'ARTHUR



DRAG WITH NO NAME



CHEDDAR GORGEOUS



VICKI VIVACIOUS



DIVINA DE CAMPO



TIARA THUNDERPUSSY



TWIGGY



CHAMPAGNE SHIRLEY



GAVINA VAGINA



KARA VAN PARK



MISS PENNY



LADY IMELDA



AMY LA QUEEFA

1PM-3PM  
**DJ: MISS PENNY**  
**SANDRA**  
**MARTHA D'ARTHUR**  
**MISS THUNDERPUSSY**

3PM-6PM  
**LADY IMELDA**  
**GAVINA VAGINA**  
**DIVINA DE CAMPO**  
**AMY LAQUEEFA**  
**CHAMPAGNE SHIRLEY**

6PM-9PM  
**VICKI VIVACIOUS**  
**TWIGGY**  
**KARA VAN PARK**

9PM-MIDNIGHT  
**DRAG WITH NO NAME**  
**CHEDDAR GORGEOUS**  
**THE DE EXPERIENCE**

**HOSTESS: SANDRA**  
**& MISS MARTY**

The Cabaret Marquee  
 is organised by The Village Inn

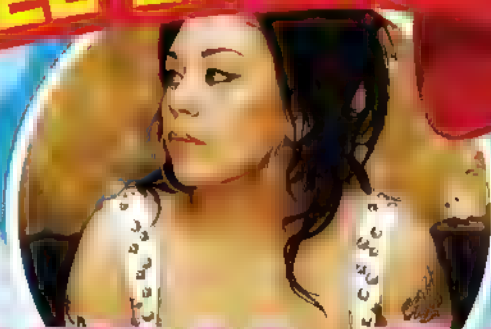
and sponsored by

manchester  
airport

San Francisco  
Direct

**SAT 27th MAY**  
**FREE ENTRY**

**FORMER  
SUGABABE**



*Love*

**MUTYA BUENA**

*Push The Button - Freak Like Me*



**SONIQUE**

*Feels So Good - I Put A Spell On You*

**FROM THE FREEMASONS**

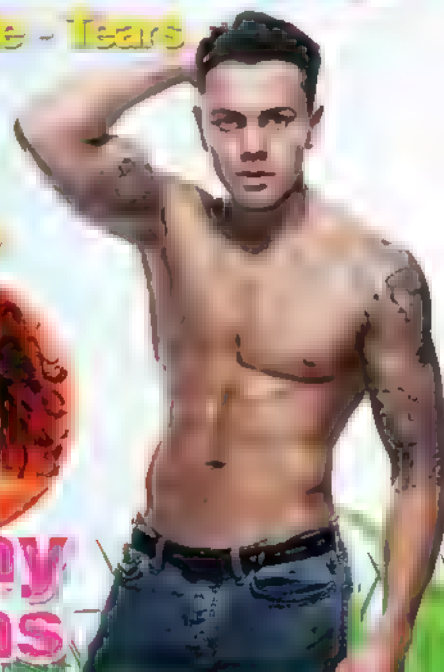


**KATHERINE ELLIS**

*Dreaming - La Musica - When You Touch Me - Tears*

**RAY QUINN**

*That's Life - Mr Bojangles - Wack The Knife*



**Mary  
Mac**



**Brenda  
LaBeau**



**Fanny  
Burns**

**SUN 28th MAY**  
**FREE ENTRY**

*Pride*

# S CLUB PARTY

Bring It All Back - Reach - S Club Party

## JAKI GRAHAM

Set Me Free - Step Right Up  
Say I'm Your Number One

## ANGIE BROWN

I'm Gonna Get You - Rockin' For Myself

FROM X-FACTOR 2015

## SEANN MILEY MOORE

Show Must Go On - Life On Mars

**La Voix**  
AND HER  
**VaVaVoom**  
**Boys**

**Danny**  
**Beard**

**Ruby**  
**Murphy**  
DJ Dan  
DJ Nikki

**The**  
**Fleurettes**

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**eden**

# GLAMOROUS

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Birmingham

# ONLINE

SAT 27 & SUN 28 MAY 2017

DJ'S  
MIKE EMERY  
PAM CATZ  
AMANDA CRUZ  
GAVINA VAGINA

THE VIADUCT SHOWGIRLS  
SATURDAY 27TH MAY

MISS MATCH  
SATURDAY 27TH MAY

THE VIVIENNE  
SUNDAY 28TH MAY

GAVINA VAGINA  
SUNDAY 28TH MAY

!MISTY LEE  
SUNDAY 28TH MAY

MYKKI  
BLANCO

# Alt Club Stage



DAI BURGER



CAKES DA KILLA



PXSSY PALACE

**BRAND NEW STAGE  
FOR 2017!**

URBAN  
SLAG



NI-KU



DJ JAY JAY

**fierce**



**WUT CLUB**

**SAT 27 MAY**

1PM-4PM

**KILLGLASS  
WUT CLUB**

4PM-7PM

**BITCH SLAP  
NI-KU**

7PM-10PM

**DAI BURGER  
DJ JAY JAY REVLON  
FT LONDON BALLROOM SCENE  
CAKES DA KILLA**

**SUNDAY 28 MAY**

1PM-4PM

**URBAN SLAG**

4PM-7PM

**MOHO  
PXSSY PALACE**

7PM-10PM

**CLUB FIERCE  
MYKKI BLANCO**

The Alt Club Stage  
is organised by The Nightingale Club

pride

# RSVP TENT

**BIRMINGHAM PRIDE**  
SATURDAY 27TH & SUNDAY 28TH MAY

ANDY M // ANTX // BURKE // CHRIS WARR  
CLINTON SHAW // DAN CARR // DAVEY BOY  
DJ MJ // FELTON // HINSLEY // HOUSE MONKEYZ  
JACK GARDNER // LEZELZ // LIAM B // LISA SHARRED  
JENKO // TINY DEE // TOM FIRE  
WAYNE SCOTT // FOX // YAN  
**LIVE PA KAISHA SMITH**  
After Party at Rsvp

**RSVP**  
Birmingham Gay & Lesbian Community Centre  
100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484, 486, 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, 538, 540, 542, 544, 546, 548, 550, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 562, 564, 566, 568, 570, 572, 574, 576, 578, 580, 582, 584, 586, 588, 590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 600, 602, 604, 606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 676, 678, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 692, 694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 764, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792, 794, 796, 798, 800, 802, 804, 806, 808, 810, 812, 814, 816, 818, 820, 822, 824, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 836, 838, 840, 842, 844, 846, 848, 850, 852, 854, 856, 858, 860, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870, 872, 874, 876, 878, 880, 882, 884, 886, 888, 890, 892, 894, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904, 906, 908, 910, 912, 914, 916, 918, 920, 922, 924, 926, 928, 930, 932, 934, 936, 938, 940, 942, 944, 946, 948, 950, 952, 954, 956, 958, 960, 962, 964, 966, 968, 970, 972, 974, 976, 978, 980, 982, 984, 986, 988, 990, 992, 994, 996, 998, 1000

**SOUL GO**

THE FOX  
AND MY COMEDY BIRMINGHAM

LIVE STAND UP COMEDY FROM...  
DEBRA-JANE APPELBY  
JULIE JEPSON  
LINDSEY SANTORO  
& HOSTED BY MAUREEN YOUNGER

MY Comedy

# GIGGLE PRIDE!

MONDAY 29TH MAY  
DOORS OPEN 3PM  
COMEDY FROM 5PM

FINISH YOUR PRIDE WITH A GIGGLE!

THE FOX & MAUREEN YOUNGER PRESENTING COMEDY AT THE FOX BIRMINGHAM 15.05.17 FOX & MAUREEN

**PRIDE PROMS 2017**  
Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra  
Jack Lovell - Conductor

ALL THE BEST SHOW TUNES WITH THE ORCHESTRAL POMP OF THE LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS!

FAVOURITES FROM:  
CHICAGO  
FIDDLER ON THE ROOF  
AMERICAN IN PARIS  
WICKED

AND ALL YOUR PROMS CLASSICS INCLUDING  
LAND OF HOPE AND GLORY  
AND RULE BRITANNIA

**SATURDAY 10TH JUNE 2017, 3PM**  
**ST PAUL'S**  
IN THE JEWELLERY QUARTER, B3 1QZ

LIMITED EARLY BIRD TICKETS ONLINE  
ONLY £10.00  
£12/£10 ON THE DOOR  
(FAMILY OF UP TO 10)  
2 ADULTS & 3 U16S £30  
STUDENTS £5

Book now at [BGSO.org.uk](http://BGSO.org.uk)

Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra  
Charitable Company Number 9128875, Registered in England & Wales

**THE BULL RING TAVERN**  
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WISHES EVERYONE A SAFE AND HAPPY PRIDE 2017

JOIN NATALIE AND HOST RACHEL STONE  
AMY WINEHOUSE TRIBUTE

PLUS GUESTS

FOR A WEEKEND OF ENTERTAINMENT, MUSIC, FUN & KARAOKE

STRONGBOW £2.15  
CARLING £2.25  
SAMBUCA ON TEQUILA £4.50

FREE ENTRY  
NO WRISTBANDS NEEDED

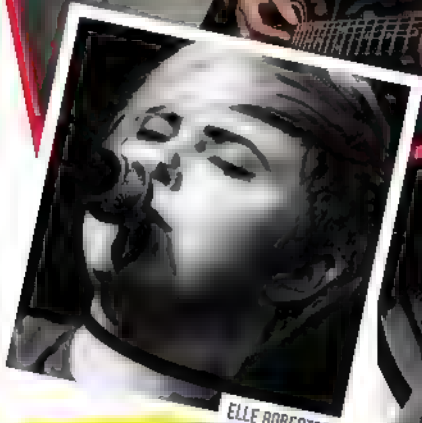
NO INCREASE ON DRINKS PRICES

MEGA DRINKS PROMOTIONS ALL WEEKEND

# Women's Arena



CALL ME UNIQUE



ELLE ROBERTSON



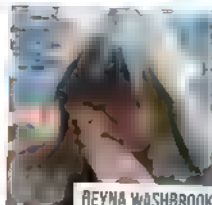
BETH PRIOR



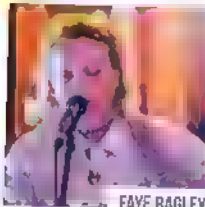
ESTHER TURNER



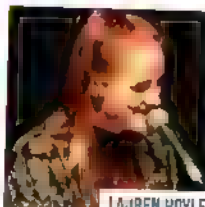
ZARA SYKES



REYNA WASHBROOK



FAYE BAGLEY



LAUREN HOYLE



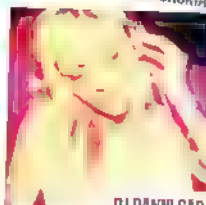
MADI SASKIA



DJ LISA SHARRED



AMY LA QUEEFA



DJ DANNI CARA



DJ BEE



DJ ROD BLATCH & JNR



**SAT 27 MAY**

12 NOON - 4PM

DJ DADDY DJ SALLY G

4PM - 7PM

**RUN 4**

**LAUREN HOYLE**

**DJ ROD BLATCH & JNR**

**LUCY & ELLIE**

**ELLE ROBERTSON**

**AMY LA QUEEFA**

7PM - MIDNIGHT

DRAG KING WINNERS

DJ DELLA DJ DANNI CARA

**DJ LISA SHARRED**

**SUNDAY 28 MAY**

12 NOON - 4PM

DJ DADDY DJ LITTLE L

4PM - 7PM

**REYNA WASHBROOK**

**FAYE BAGLEY**

URBAN CELLAR & IT IS WHAT IT IS PRESENT:

**CALL ME UNIQUE**

**BETH PRIOR**

**ESTHER TURNER**

7PM - MIDNIGHT

**ZARA SYKES**

**MADI SASKIA**

**DJ GAIL DJ BEE**

**DJ EASY TIGER DJ NICKIE B DJ SHORTY**

**MARK AMES  
PRESENTS**



**THE BIGGER BETTER  
BOLDER BEARS CLUB**

**XXL BIRMINGHAM**

**26<sup>th</sup> MAY**

10PM - 4AM £5 ENTRY

**THE CORE CLUB**

135 SHERLOCK ST, BIRMINGHAM B5 6NB

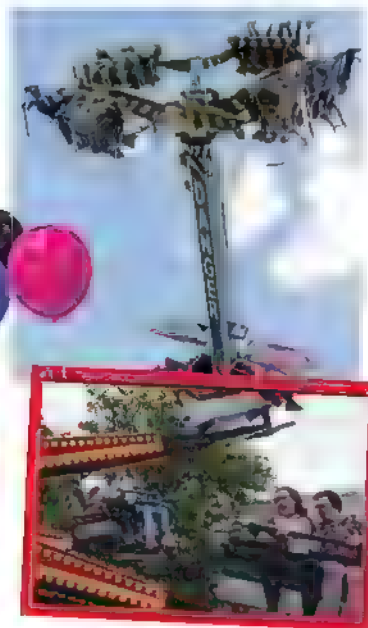
**XXL-LONDON.COM**



There aren't only FIVE stages to enjoy this year – our Street Party features a fantastic funfair, market & community stalls, streetfood – and of course all your favourite gay bars and clubs!

## Thrill-seekers' funfair!

There's plenty of adrenaline pumping while knuckle excitement to be enjoyed at this year's funfair. And who knows, you might just end up having the best ride of your weekend!



## Community & market stalls!

Pop by the stalls over the weekend and see what the various community groups are getting up to.

You'll also be able to pick up a bargain or several from the numerous market stalls.

If you haven't already booked a stall, you might still be able to get one! Email [christina@eventmen.co.uk](mailto:christina@eventmen.co.uk) for more information.



## StreetFood galore!

There'll be a host of different street-food outlets around the festival, serving up delicious grub. Whether you want a simple burger, a hotdog or perhaps some noodles – or maybe some vegetarian or vegan food – we've got it covered!



# Trident Learning of Kaua'i, Inc.

Saturday 27th May  
Midday - 6am

Sunday 28th May  
Midday - 9pm &  
9pm - 6am **defekt**

Arrangement 13 includes:  
Andre Amore, Brandon Rose,  
Callum Baker, Chris J.,  
Clinton Shaw, Danyel Kaine,  
Dean Curtis, Dr Love,  
George Kufala, Guy Burnie,  
Miley G, Rara Candy,  
Run Jay, Shawn Philpotts  
& Tomika



TRIDENT LEARNING OF KAUAI, INC.



# Gay Nightlife

Birmingham offers visitors one of the best gay scenes in the UK, with its gay village boasting over 15 bars and clubs, all within close proximity of one another.

Check out some of the highlights of what's on across the weekend...



## XXL at The Core

The popular London men-only club night returns to Birmingham's Core Club for a Birmingham Pride special on Friday 26 May. Hot men, great music and a fantastic atmosphere - what more could you ask for to begin the Pride weekend?

Friday 26 May - The Core, Sherlock Street



## Fab food at The Loft

Since last year's Birmingham Pride, The Loft has received an incredible make-over - so much so it won Best Birmingham Overall Gay Venue. Over Pride weekend they will be serving fantastic food, classy cocktails and music from Daniel Gleeson.

All weekend - The Loft, Bromsgrove Street



## Top local DJs at the RSVP Arena

So it goes play over to the RSVP Tent again this year with 20 DJS on the lineup over the weekend with the likes of Uzi Sharred, Wayne Scott-Eso, Tom Fire and more.

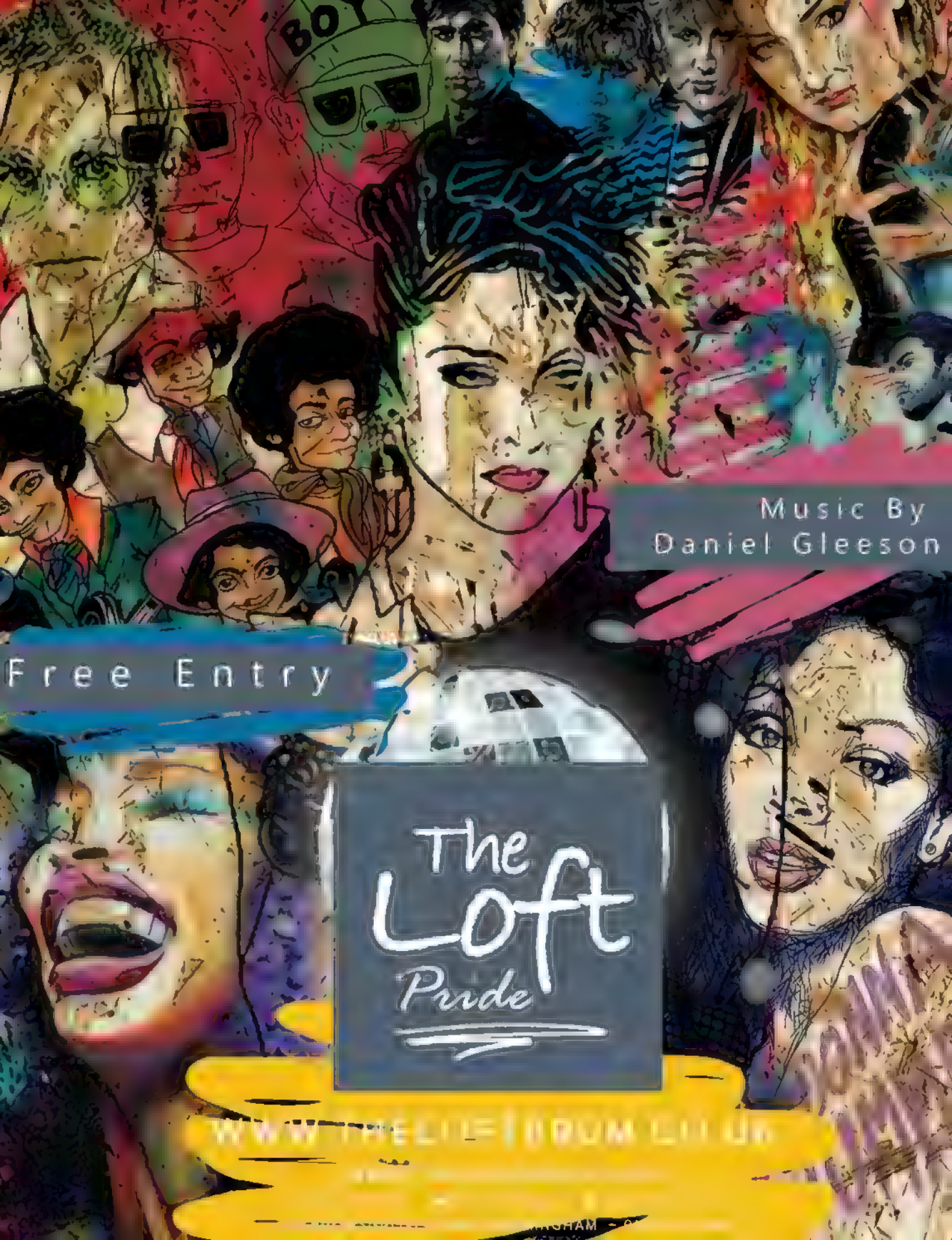
All weekend - RSVP at Rhapsody Bar, Hurst Street



## The ultimate gay party at Brum's gay superclub!

It's the biggest gay venue in Birmingham and likely the biggest gay party over the Pride weekend. With three floors, countless bars and four rooms of music, you're sure to have a great night out in The Nightingale! The venue is offering a '3 Day Club Pass' for just £14 - giving you access to the venue on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of Pride. Cheap as chips, huh?!

All weekend - The Nightingale, Kent Street



Music By  
Daniel Gleeson

Free Entry

# The Loft Pride

WWW.THELOFTPROM.CO.UK

10th June 2010

10th June 2010

# Gay Nightlife



## Mega line-up at Eden

Eden Bar has a very impressive line-up of live music PAs and cabaret across Pride weekend - highlights of which include the hunky Ray Quinn, S Club Party (or S Club 3 as you'd probably call them), Sonique and BGT's Danny Beard!

**All Weekend - Eden, Sherlock Street**



## A 'Glamorous' night with The Vivienne

Birmingham cabaret venue Glamorous (which has an all new look) is set to host the UK's ambassador to RuPaul's Drag Race - The Vivienne on Sunday 28 May. Expect a lot of fun with a great bunch of people!

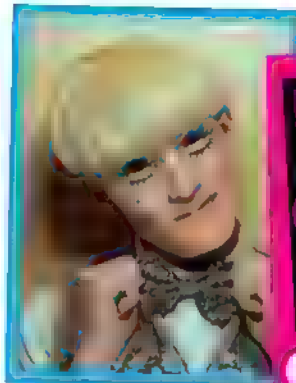
**Sunday 28 May - Glamorous, Hurst Street**



## Cabar-gay at Missing

Party bar Missing is always a great place to end up over Pride. This year, from 6pm each night they've a whole host of cabaret and DJs - including Alfie Ordinary and more!

**All Weekend - Missing, Hurst Street**



## Giggle Pride at The Fox

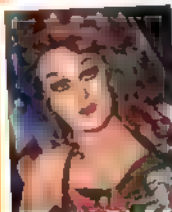
If you're still up for more fun and laughter this Pride then The Fox hosts Giggle Pride on Monday 29 May with stand-up comedians Debbie Jones Appleby, Julie Jepson, Lindsey Santoro and Maureen Younger!

**Monday 29 May - The Fox, Lower Essex Street**

## Party time at The Village Inn

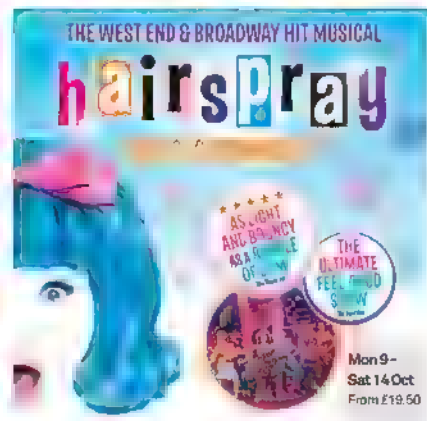
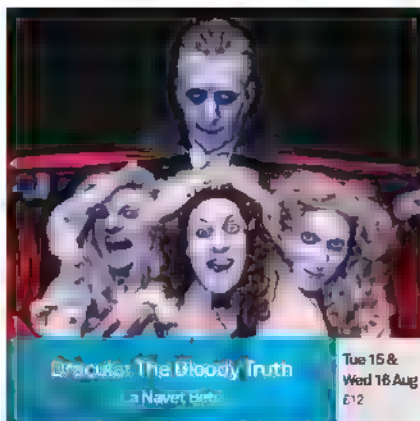
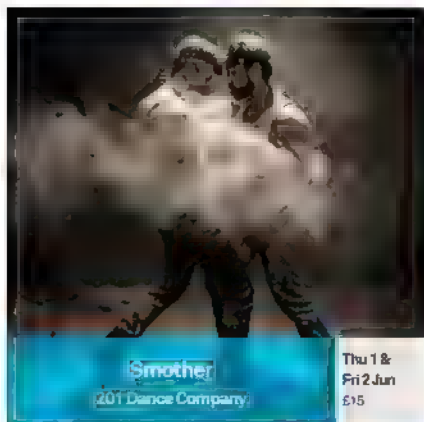
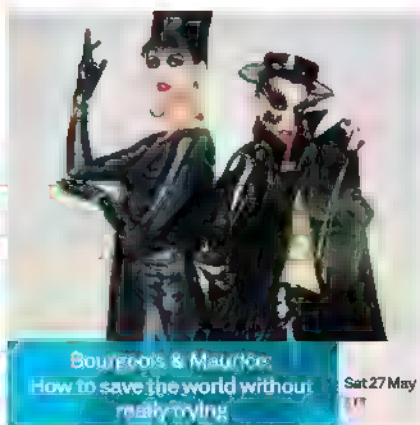
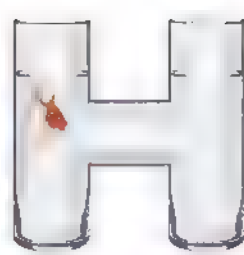
It's the award-winning party paradise in Brum's gay village and they'll be entertaining you all Pride weekend with a fab selection of DJs and drag queen hosts, such as Charlotte the Harlotte!

**All Weekend - The Village Inn, Hurst Street**



Sidewalk is located in the middle of all the Pride weekend action - a busy bar with some great DJs across the weekend, not forgetting the venue's hostess with the mostest - Morgan Spice.

**All Weekend - Sidewalk, Hurst Street**



**BIRMINGHAM  
HIPPODROME**

0844 338 5000 [birminghamhippodrome.com](http://birminghamhippodrome.com)

Calls cost 4 5p per min plus access charge. 5% transaction charge applies excluding cash sales in person.

# What's On across the city...

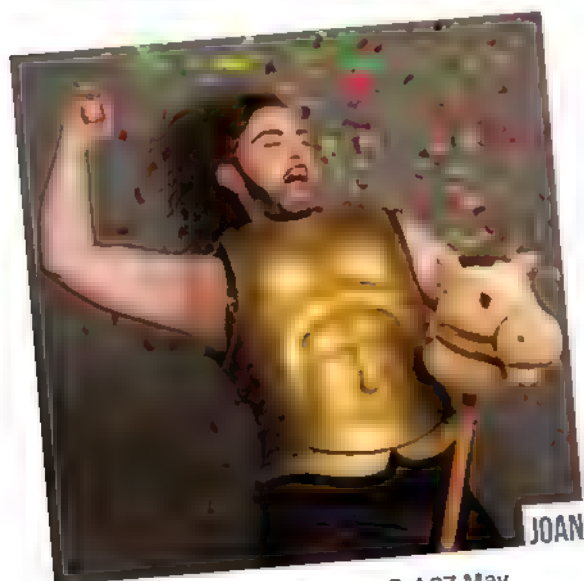
Birmingham Pride takes place right in the heart of the city's Southside district, in and around the exciting Gay Village and alongside one of the UK's largest theatres, the Birmingham Hippodrome.

As well as programming some of the biggest touring productions to come out of the West End, the Hippodrome is home to the prestigious Birmingham Royal Ballet and DanceXchange.

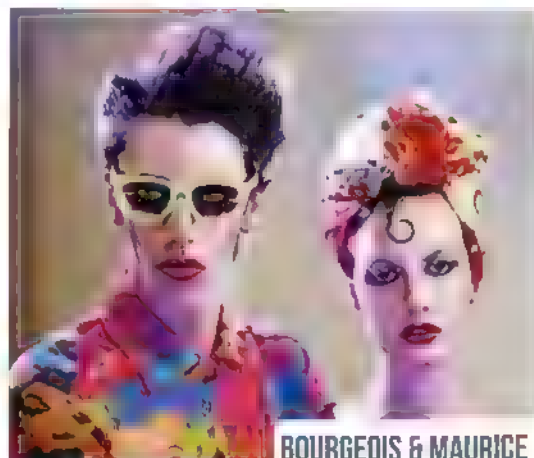
A short stroll from the Gay Village are numerous other theatres/arts venues well worth a visit - the New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham REP, Birmingham Town Hall and the prestigious Symphony Hall.

For art enthusiasts, the Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery is a must, while those in need of sustenance can head to some of the city's many cafes, restaurants and cocktail bars.

## Culture



**The REP, Birmingham, Fri 26 - Sat 27 May**  
Performed by drag king champion Lucy Jane Parkinson, Joan sees history's greatest gender-warrior take to the stage, dragging up as the men she defies in an earthy story of courage, conviction and hope



**Birmingham Hippodrome, Sat 27 May**

Join this London-based dynamic duo for a cynical take on 'our post modern, post gender, post Brexit world' in a show which promises wit in abundance



**The Fox, Mon 29 May**

What better way to finish your Birmingham Pride weekend than by enjoying a night of comedy, hosted by ever popular stand-up comedian, actor and 'globetrotter' Maureen Younger. Joining Maureen on this occasion is Debra-Jane Appelby, Julie Jepson and Lindsey Santoro.

# What's On HIGHLIGHTS

**THSH** THE HOME OF LIVE MUSIC  
TOWN HALL SYMPHONY HALL  
5 - 11 PM 5 - 11 PM

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**THE NIGHT OWL AND  
TOWN HALL BIRMINGHAM  
PRESENT -  
THE BIG BIRMINGHAM  
SOUL NIGHT**  
SAT 15 APRIL  
**TOWN HALL**



**LA LA LAND -  
LIVE IN CONCERT**  
**FILM SCREENING WITH  
LIVE ORCHESTRA**  
SUN 24 SEPTEMBER  
**SYMPHONY HALL**



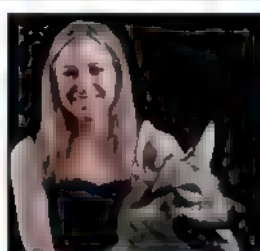
**IMAGINED ISLE  
A FOLK FESTIVAL OF  
THE IMAGINATION**  
FRI 12 - SUN 14 MAY  
**TOWN HALL**



**TEXAS PLUS SUPPORT**  
SUN 1 OCTOBER  
**SYMPHONY HALL**



**PAM ANN - TOUCH  
TROLLEY RUN  
TO GALLEY 20TH  
ANNIVERSARY TOUR**  
WED 31 MAY  
**TOWN HALL**

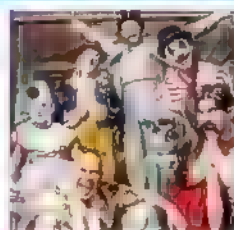


**TAME: WITH PROFESSOR  
ALICE ROBERTS**  
WED 25 OCTOBER  
**TOWN HALL**

## family



**THE SCARECROW'S  
WEDDING**  
FRI 14 - SAT 15 APRIL  
**TOWN HALL**



**MNOZIL BRASS FAMILY  
SHOW**  
SAT 6 MAY  
**TOWN HALL**

To see what's on when, visit [www.thsh.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.thsh.co.uk/whats-on)

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ENGLAND**

Town Hall renovation also funded by



LOTTERY FUNDED



PROJECT PART-FINANCED  
BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

# Culture



**DIRTY DANCING**

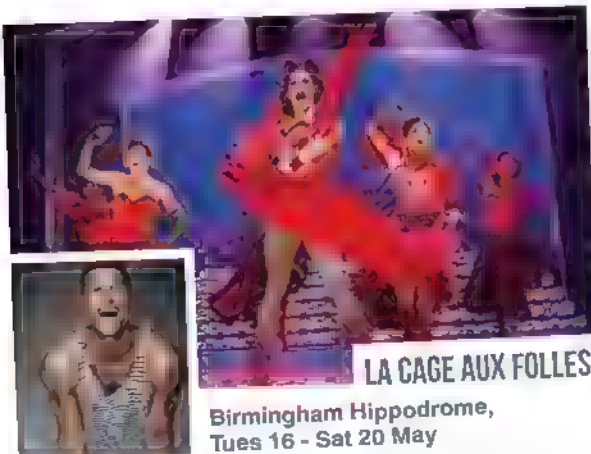
**New Alexandra Theatre, Mon 29 - Sat 30 May**  
Seen by millions worldwide, this iconic musical celebrates the coming together of two independent young spirits. The show features spectacular dancing and a string of hit songs, including Hungry Eyes, Hey Baby and the classic The Time Of My Life.



**BGSO: PRIDE PROMS**

**St Paul's Church, Birmingham, Sat 10 June**

A popular element of the Birmingham Pride celebrations, this St Paul's Church concert combines Last Night of the Proms favourites with a selection of West End medleys. A great opportunity to wave your rainbow flags, blow your hooters and sing your heart out.



**LA CAGE AUX FOLLES**

**Birmingham Hippodrome,  
Tues 16 - Sat 20 May**

This critically acclaimed touring production sees former EastEnders John Partridge playing the lead role of Albin, a drag queen whose exuberant lifestyle is threatened by a right-wing politician. Marti Webb and Adrian Zmed also star

**Birmingham Town Hall, Wed 31 May**

The air hostess with the mostess, Pam Ann lands in Brum as part of her 20th anniversary UK tour. Expect plenty of camp humour as she explores the nuances of air travel.

**PAM ANN**



THE WORLD FAMOUS  
**DREAMBOYS**



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**SS WEEBA & THE Masala QUEENS**  
A new play about drag queens  
by HARVEY YIRD



WARWICK ARTS CENTRE, COVENTRY 16 - 20 MAY 2017  
GREENWICH THEATRE, LONDON 24 - 27 MAY 2017  
THEATRE ROYAL WINDSOR 30 MAY - 3 JUNE 2017  
NST CAMPUS, SOUTHAMPTON 6 - 10 JUNE 2017  
WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE, LEEDS 13 - 17 JUNE 2017

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RSC ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

THEATRE ROYAL DORSET AVON FROM 2 JUNE



**SALOME**

#50YearsofChange ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

26 - 27 MAY  
Milk Presents in association with

**JOAN**  
By Lucy J Skilbeck  
Stand up, stand out and man up...  
Directed by drag king champion Lucy Jade Parkinson



15 - 17 JUN  
Soho Theatre presents

**URSULA MARTINEZ: FREE ADMISSION**  
Baring her soul (and possibly more)



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# Culture



## 201 DANCE COMPANY: SMOTHER

Birmingham Hippodrome, Thurs 1 & Fri 2 June

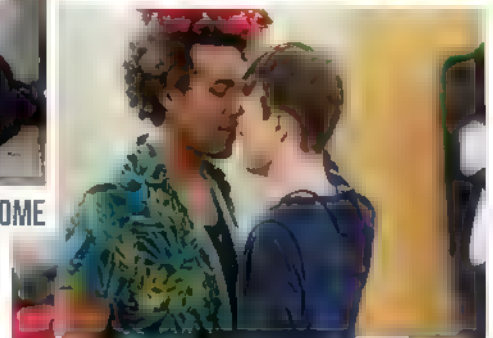
Themes of addiction and obsession are at the heart of Andrew Waiker's choreographed work, which uses contemporary hip-hop movement to explore the relationship of two young men

Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon,  
Fri 2 June - Wed 6 September

This post Pride offering is a new production of Oscar Wilde's lyrical one-act play. Performed by an almost all male cast, it explores the subject of sexual ambiguity in the contemporary world



## SALOME



# GB TRAINING

## SAFE AND HAPPY

# PRIDE

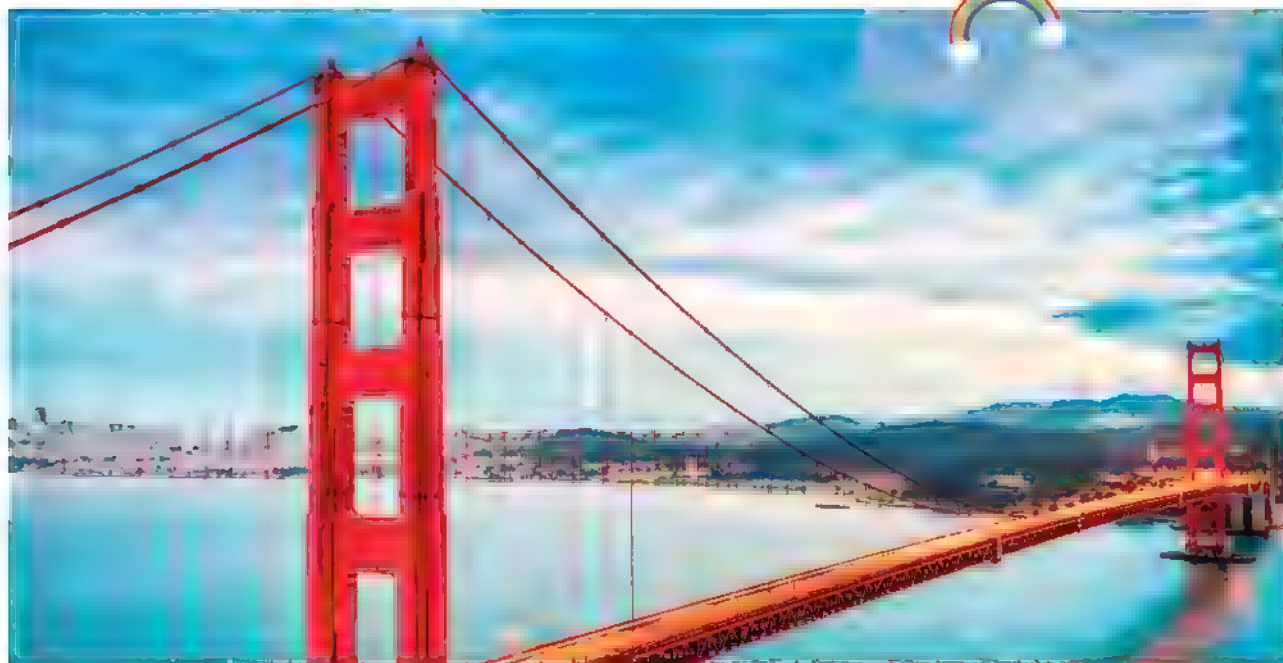


GB Training (JK) Ltd, Wynner House, 143 Bromsgrove Street, Birmingham, West Midlands, B5 6RG  
Telephone: 0121 622 4218



# WIN!

## Win a Holiday for two to San Francisco...



**To celebrate Manchester Airport being one of the sponsors of Birmingham Pride this year one lucky person is set to bag a trip of a lifetime to San Francisco!**

**Simply enter your name and email address on our website to be in with a chance of winning at [www.birminghampride.com](http://www.birminghampride.com)!!!**



The airport is offering the luxury trip to its newest destination, which started on 28th March with Virgin Atlantic, and makes Manchester the only airport outside of London to have a direct service to San Francisco

The prize includes a pair of return flights with Virgin Atlantic, direct from Manchester Airport, plus a £1,000 accommodation voucher

All you need to do is enter your details on our website to be in with the chance of winning. A lucky winner will then be picked at random on stage at "The Manchester Airport Cabaret

Marquee" on Sunday 28 May at Pride. Don't worry if you can't be there as the winner will be contacted by email.

The competition closes at midnight on Friday 26 May, 2017. All entries are subject to T&C's (see our website for full detail)

**manchester**  
airport

**San Francisco**  
Direct

## COMMUNITY EVENTS AT BIRMINGHAM LGBT CENTRE

### Friday 26 May - Ageing Better LGBT float-decorating workshop

Float decoration workshop for the Ageing Better float, run by Garry Jones.

### Saturday 27 May - Ageing Well Together With Pride: Parade!

Ageing Better in Birmingham LGBT float and walkers take part in the Pride Parade.

### Saturday 27 May - Acoustic Chill

Birmingham LGBT plays host to the ever-popular Acoustic Chill event in Cakes And Ladders Café at the LGBT Centre. Join us for a coffee and an afternoon of superb entertainment with some of Birmingham's favourite acoustic singers. The event starts straight after the Parade.

### Sunday 28 May - Ageing Well Together With Pride at Birmingham LGBT Centre

Birmingham LGBT hosts a variety of cultural and entertainment based activities, supported by Ageing Better LGBT Hub and including Ageing Better LGBT groups.

**Headline act is VG Lee.** Raconteur and author <http://www.vglee.co.uk/>

Other entertainment includes a theatre piece by **Acting Out**, music from **Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra** and Moselele; 'taster' activity sessions from **Rainbow Spirit** and **Illuminate**; a **Journey Film Club** showing of *Women In Love*. Other entertainment to be confirmed

# Community Events



AUTHOR: VG LEE

### Monday 29 May - Ageing Well Together With Pride goes Out And About

Activities supported by Ageing Better LGBT Hub, taking place in a variety of locations and venues, including:

**Rainbow Ramble** round the Jewellery Quarter Meetup, Tea and Gallery! at BMAG  
**Java**; Chow city-centre picnic  
**Giggle Pride!** Comedy at The Fox

Further details of all events at <http://birminghamlgbt.org.uk/events/>



Over the past five years, Birmingham Pride has raised £200,000+ for charity!



|                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>To date, 20+ organisations have received a grant from Birmingham Pride including:</p> <p><b>ST JOHN'S AMBULANCE SERVICE</b> £2,500</p> | <p><b>LGBT NETWORK</b>, Mental health work. £4,700</p> <p><b>X2Y LGBT YOUTH GROUP</b>, Wolves. £4,596</p> <p><b>SIFA FIRESIDE</b>. £14,639</p> <p><b>BIRMINGHAM LGBT CENTRE</b>, Trans support work. £28,400</p> <p><b>OUTSPOKEN</b>, B'ham School of Acting. £8,200</p> | <p><b>JOURNEY MCC</b>, Asylum group. £11,000</p> <p><b>LGBT ALCOHOL SUPPORT</b>. £1,640</p> <p><b>CITY YOGA PROJECT</b>. £1,000</p> <p><b>EMPOWER LGBT FAMILIES</b>, Wolverhampton. £800</p> <p><b>RAINBOW VOICES</b>, Choir. £7,420</p> <p><b>EDUCATE</b></p> | <p><b>CELEBRATE</b>, School projects. £6,500</p> <p><b>BIRMINGHAM OPEN MEDIA</b>. £6,500</p> <p><b>SHOUT FESTIVAL</b>. £1,000</p> <p><b>SHROPSHIRE FILM FESTIVAL</b>. £1,500</p> <p><b>BIRMINGHAM GAY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA</b>. £1,500</p> <p><b>BIRMINGHAM SWIFTS</b></p> | <p><b>Running group</b>. £1,946</p> <p><b>BEAUTIFUL BOY PLAY</b>, Educational theatre project. £1,000</p> <p><b>PARKFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL</b>. £5,000</p> <p><b>PINK SOUTHWESTERS</b>. £3,000</p> <p><b>BEAVER VOICES</b>. £2,500</p> <p><b>AB PLUS</b>. £5,000</p> <p><b>ST BASILS</b> £10,000</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



# EAT / DRINK / WATCH DANCE / SHOP

- ▶ OVER 50 INDEPENDENT RESTAURANTS WITH FOOD ALL OVER THE WORLD
- ▶ DOZENS OF BARS TO SUIT ALL TASTES
- ▶ 3 THEATRES, CINEMA AND PERFORMANCE VENUES OF ALL KINDS

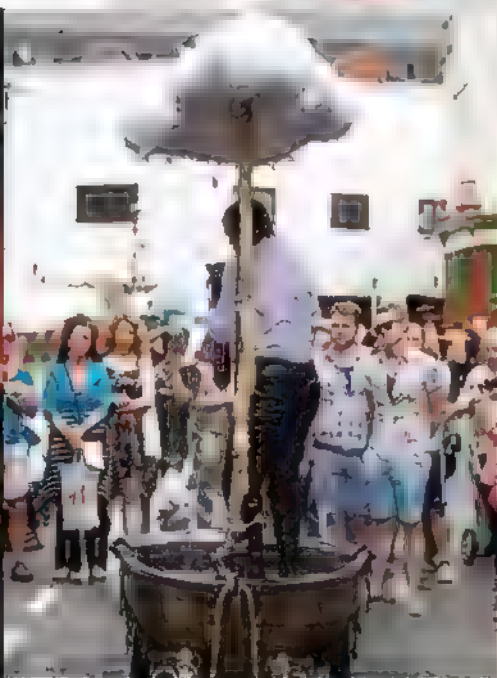




# SUMMER IN SOUTHSIDE

SAT 17 &  
SUN 18 JUNE

WEEKEND  
OF FREE  
PERFORMANCE  
& EXHIBITIONS  
OUT IN THE  
OPEN AIR.



ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT



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Peer-to-Peer

Domestic Abuse

Forced Marriage

Sexual Assault

Sexual Abuse

Mental Health

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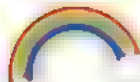


**101**

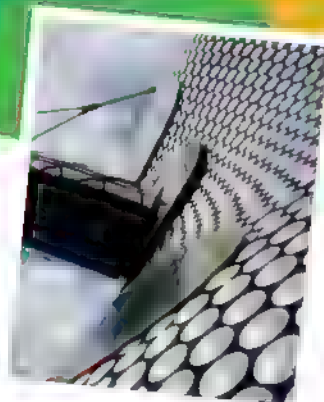
IN AN EMERGENCY  
ALWAYS CALL 999

YOU CAN ALSO REPORT  
HATE CRIME ON-LINE

[www.report-it.org.uk](http://www.report-it.org.uk)



# Let's Shop



## Birmingham's **Twiggy** highlights where to shop in the city over the Pride Weekend...

### Bullring Recommendations...

#### **Selfridges** - East Mall

It's that big part of Bullring, ya know, the one with the silver discs outside? Well Selfridges offers four floors of style, beauty and food - helping to make you look too hot to handle for Pride! There's even tasty treats in the Food Hall on Level 1, a haven for any men's fashion devotees on Level 2, beauty heaven on Level 3 and the ultimate in luxury on Level 4 from brands such as Mulberry, Christian Louboutin and Alexander McQueen.

#### **Barber Barber** - LinkStreet

If you're in need of a 'riah zhoosher' for Pride weekend, then look no further than Barber Barber at LinkStreet (the walkway between Bullring and Grand Central). The barbers offers a range of treatments including Precision Bearding Sculpting, Traditional Cut Throat Shave and the full works with The Ultimate Barber Barber Experience.



#### **Pretty Green** - LinkStreet

Oasis frontman Liam Gallagher (he's the more gobby one of the Gallagher brothers) is the creator of Pretty Green, and Brum is lucky enough to have it's own branch residing at LinkStreet. The store offers a range of clothing, shoes and accessories as well as a selection of vinyls

#### **Ted Baker** - Upper East Mall

It's a must-visit destination on your list. Everything about the Ted Baker store (which houses menswear and womenswear) is amazing including the decoration, which is inspired by the industrial revolution and Birmingham's heritage with a nod to jewellery hall-marking and Cadbury's chocolate.

#### **Ben Sherman** - LinkStreet

Although I'd rather see you with your shirt off, have you seen The Shirt Bar yet? The new Ben Sherman store is now open on LinkStreet and has a wall dedicated to the brand's iconic shirts

#### **New Look Men** - Upper West Mall

Make sure you look fabulous for Pride weekend and swing by the New Look Men store. Easy to find, it's just opened at the centre at the entrance by the Bull

#### **Diesel** - Upper East Mall

Need some new jeans? Then Diesel has a store on Upper East Mall. As well as offering the full Apparel and Denim range - keep them tight, I like to see everything!

#### **G Star** - Upper West Mall

Here's another fab destination for anybody into their denim. G Star has a huge range of mens and womenswear across two floors. They have great celeb collabs too, including the G Star Raw Elwood X28 collection designed by the hunky Pharrell Williams.

#### **Swatch** - Upper East Mall

Keep an eye on the time with a new watch from Swatch! They have a huge range of styles and designs available in-store!

### Other Recommendations...

#### **John Lewis** - Grand Central

Be sure to pop in to this giant of a department store in Grand Central! There's something for everyone and it's right above Birmingham New Street train station too!

#### **Pylones** - Grand Central

This colourful retailer has the most delightful homeware, gifts and gadgets to please any shopper. It's unique French styling features quirky items for the outdoors and kitchen, as well as a range of children's items.

#### **Harvey Nichols** - The Mailbox

The upmarket department store stocks many designer brands to make you look and feel great for Pride

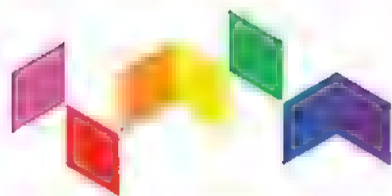
#### **Clonezone** - Hurst St

No shopping highlights would be complete with a mention to Clonezone, which is situated within the Birmingham Pride site - make sure you make a visit.

TWIGGY

X





# Birmingham LGBT

WISHES EVERYONE A SAFE AND HAPPY BIRMINGHAM PRIDE 2017

## AGEING BETTER

Ageing Better is a project that aims to improve the lives of older LGBT people. It provides a safe space for older LGBT people to meet, share experiences and support each other. The project also offers advice and information on issues that affect older LGBT people, such as housing, health and social care. For more information, visit [www.ageingbetter.org.uk](http://www.ageingbetter.org.uk)

## SHOUT FESTIVAL

9 - 19 NOVEMBER 2017

Established by Birmingham LGBT in 2004, SHOUT Festival of queer arts and culture brings the best in queer and lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) artists' work and culture from across the UK and beyond to Birmingham. We ignite debate, inspire discussion, increase representation and showcase the work of queer artists across the city.

SHOUT is the West Midlands' only combined festival of queer arts and culture, returning to Birmingham each November delivering a ten-day festival showcasing the best of queer performances, theatre, visual art and film from across the UK and beyond. In addition to this we deliver a year-round cultural programme of events, arts and performance aiming to increase the visibility and presence of queer arts throughout the city.

[www.shoutfestival.co.uk](http://www.shoutfestival.co.uk)

## WELLBEING SUPPORT SERVICE

The Wellbeing Support Service is a free, confidential service for LGBT people who are experiencing mental health problems. The service provides a safe space for people to talk about their feelings and experiences, and to receive advice and support. For more information, visit [www.birminghamlgbt.org.uk](http://www.birminghamlgbt.org.uk)

## ACTIVATE

Activate is a Sport England-funded project, designed to encourage LGBT people in the area to try new sports and challenge homophobic in sport, after feedback that there was not enough provision for the community.

Thinking of taking up or returning to physical activity?

The documented benefits of physical activity include less loneliness, stress and mental fatigue, a natural energy boost, improved sleep, a sense of achievement, focus in life and motivation, reduced anger or frustration, a healthy appetite and an improved social life. It can even be fun. Activate classes and events are safe spaces for you to find out what suits you and your pace.



0121 643 0821 [www.birminghamlgbt.org.uk](http://www.birminghamlgbt.org.uk)



# Eating Out



THE LOFT

## Brum NOW boasts 5 Michelin-star restaurants + so much more!

Over the past decade, Birmingham has transformed itself into the ultimate dining destination. Now with five Michelin-star restaurants - Purnell's, Simpsons, Adams, Turners and, most recently, Carters Restaurant - the city has gained both national and international recognition as the country's regional capital of cuisine.

Not only that, but in recent years the New York Times has ranked

Birmingham among the top 20 international cities to visit, due to its impressive culinary reputation.

Birmingham boasts numerous high profile restaurants and offers plenty of choice when it comes to cuisine, including Chinese, Indian, Italian, French, Spanish, South American and North American.

There's a host of food outlets throughout the Pride festival site - many of which are offering healthy options. If you fancy grabbing

something to eat without venturing too far from all the Pride action, head for The Loft, which is serving food throughout the weekend.

The Southside district is also home to Chinatown, boasting a selection of great Chinese restaurants.

There are plenty of other restaurants throughout the city too, in The Mailbox, Brindleyplace, The Cube and Spiceal Street.

For more restaurants, head to [www.BirminghamWhatsOn.co.uk](http://www.BirminghamWhatsOn.co.uk)

## Heartlands HIV Service

The service is dedicated to the diagnosis, treatment and on-going management of patients with HIV. We offer specialist assessment and on-going management of HIV and its associated conditions within a dedicated clinical environment.

To find out more about the supportive, trusting and confidential service visit us at

[www.HIVbirmingham.nhs.uk](http://www.HIVbirmingham.nhs.uk)

The Charity Saving Lives is a HIV and ST Awareness Charity that works in association with Heartlands HIV Service. Saving Lives offer free postal HIV Testing kits at [www.TAKEATESTUK.com](http://www.TAKEATESTUK.com). Use voucher code. Other postal Sexual Health kits available.

Birmingham  
Heartlands  
HIV Service  
[HIVbirmingham.nhs.uk](http://HIVbirmingham.nhs.uk)

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STAYING COOL APARTMENTS



# Staying Over

## Over 8,000 beds to suit every taste!

Are you visiting Birmingham from elsewhere in the country? If so, there's plenty of accommodation available in the city centre, with over 8,000 beds to suit every taste and budget.

Amongst the best places to stay is the stunning Radisson Blu, a 39-storey glass skyscraper located on the outskirts of Birmingham's gay village and just a five-minute walk away from the weekend's action

Other nearby accommodation includes the luxury Staying Cool penthouse apartments at the top of the Rotunda, providing stunning views across the city

If you're on a tighter budget, the Ibis, Holiday Inn, Travelodge, Ibis Budget and Nite Nite are all just a stone's throw from Birmingham's gay village

For a full list of Birmingham's hotels - and for more information about the city itself - visit [www.visitbirmingham.com](http://www.visitbirmingham.com)



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TO VIEW THE ROOM BEFORE BOOKING

PLEASE CONTACT

[WEDDINGS@MALVERNHILLS.GOV.UK](mailto:WEDDINGS@MALVERNHILLS.GOV.UK)

OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

01684 862412

[www.malvern hills.gov.uk](http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk)





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# Access

The organisers of Birmingham Pride wish to make the festival inclusive for ALL and recognise the need for easy access throughout the event for our disabled community.

There are various features in place to cater for those with accessibility needs who are coming to Birmingham Pride.



## ENTERING PRIDE & DISABLED PARKING

Priority entrance and parking for the disabled is situated on Kent Street, by The Fountain. Please also refer to the Main Site Map for an overview of where this is located.

There is also Disabled Parking in The Arcadian Centre on Bromsgrove St.

## DISABLED TOILETS

All the entertainment areas have disabled toilet facilities on site. At each area, there will be stewards and security guards, as well as general Birmingham Pride staff, who will be able to assist you by pointing out the toilets, and also by escorting you through the crowd to reach them, should you require any assistance. Outside the entertainment areas, there will be road-level disabled toilets available.

Just look out for the disabled toilet sign on the Main Site Map on page 11.

## VENUE ACCESS

There's a huge choice of venues to visit throughout the Pride weekend. All of them have their own accessibility policy. Some offer elevators as well as ramps, disabled toilets and easy access to the outdoor and smoking areas. Please refer back to the Birmingham Pride website for updated information on accessibility at each venue.

Alternatively, if there's a particular venue you're interested in, give them a call directly to find out how they can assist you.

A full list of venues with contact details can also be found at [www.birminghampride.com](http://www.birminghampride.com)

## ENTERTAINMENT STAGE ACCESS

There will be ramp access to all of the entertainment areas at Birmingham Pride. There is a designated area for disabled viewing situated near the front of the stage within the Main Stage arena.

## FURTHER INFORMATION?

We are constantly looking to improve on our disabled access. Your feedback and suggestions are always welcome, to help us develop this aspect of the festival.

Should you have any questions, suggestions or issues regarding accessibility at Birmingham Pride, we'd love to hear from you.

Email Peter Wright: [peter@birminghampride.com](mailto:peter@birminghampride.com) or call the Birmingham Pride office on 0121 622 5255.





# Take baby steps to pregnancy

Book a complimentary 15min 1-2-1 appointment with our staff at an IVI Midland information event to take your first steps to [helping you become a parent](#)

Established in 1987, IVI Midland Fertility has an IVF pregnancy rate per cycle of 45.1% for patients under 35 years, compared to the national average of 31.6%\*

\*source: HFEA March 2017

[ivi.uk](http://ivi.uk)





# Volunteer

## Can you help and support Pride?

Volunteering provides people with an opportunity to shine, to make new friends, and also to play a part in ensuring that the Birmingham Pride festival is inclusive and open to all.

Our Pride Ambassadors scheme has been a huge success in recent years - everyone who gets involved feels a real sense of community and achievement. There are plenty of opportunities to participate, whether it be as a Parade Steward, a Wheel Marshall, a Registration

Volunteer, part of the clean-up crew, or by fundraising throughout the festival.

Be part of something that's fun and varied, and show the Midlands how we pull together for Pride

So if you've got a few hours to spare during the event and would like to find out more, pop along to our final **Volunteers Open Day on Saturday 13 May from 1pm to 6pm at The Loft, Bromsgrove Street, Birmingham**



To volunteer at this year's event, register your interest now by emailing: [peter@birminghampride.com](mailto:peter@birminghampride.com)

# Supporting Birmingham Pride 2017



Phone **0121 303 7575** or  
visit [birminghampride.co.uk](http://birminghampride.co.uk)

**#changinglives**



**Birmingham**  
City Council



**Fancy winning Jack's pants?**  
Jump on [stylebham.com/win](http://stylebham.com/win)  
and grab a load of the action!

**Style**  
BIRMINGHAM

Fashion, culture and lifestyle for Birmingham  
Online | Print | Digital [Stylebham.com](http://Stylebham.com)

## BY COACH

National Express operates bus and coach services to Birmingham from all major towns and cities across the UK. Please use the journey planner for cheap ticket deals and travel times [www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com)

## BY BUS

National Express West Midlands provides frequent local bus services into Birmingham city centre from across the West Midlands. To plan your bus journey, visit <http://journeyplanner.networkwestmidlands.com/?operator=NXB>

# How to find us

Sat Nav Postcode B5 1 1 1



See if you can spot the Birmingham Pride coach around the city!  
It's kindly sponsored by National Express - our Official Travel Partner

## FROM THE M6

- From Junction 6 of the M6 follow the signs for Birmingham Central.
- Follow the A38 (M) for two miles (signs for the city centre)
- At the end of the motorway, take the flyover signed M5 South West
- Coming off the flyover, pass under the tunnel, following signs for Inner Ring Road South
- Take the next tunnel (Queensway)
- Follow signs for Bromsgrove A38, which takes you to a third underpass
- On surfacing, get in the left-hand lane, take the 2nd left (Wrentham Street) Go to the bottom, take a left, then third left. The Arcadian car park is on your left.



## FROM THE M5

- From Junction 4, follow the signs for Birmingham along the A38 through Northfield and Selly Oak
- Going over the traffic lights at Bristol Street (McDonalds on your left), move into the left lane (signed BR New Street)
- Passing the O2 Academy on your left, move into the right-hand lane
- Turn full circle at this roundabout (Holloway Circus)
- Take fourth left (Wrentham Street). Go to the bottom, take a left, then third left. The Arcadian car park is on your left. Directly outside the car park is one of the entrances to the Pride site

## FROM NEW STREET TRAIN STATION

- Exit the station onto Stephenson Street (new exit/entrance)
- Walk approx 300 yards to the road junction.

### For the Gay Village:

- Take a left at the road junction. Walk down to the traffic lights. Cross straight over onto Hurst Street
- The Pride site entrance point and wristband exchange is 50 yards after you pass the Birmingham Hippodrome theatre.

### For the parade:

- Take a right at the road junction
- Walk up to the top of Hill Street
- Take a left and Victoria Square is on the right, in front of the Council House.





Birmingham **LGBT**

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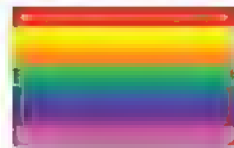


umbrella

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0121 643 0821

[umbrellahealth.co.uk](http://umbrellahealth.co.uk)

0121 237 5700

[umbrellaatbirminghamlgbt](http://umbrellaatbirminghamlgbt)



# VIP Tickets

## Get the **VIP** experience at Pride

If you fancy attending Birmingham Pride in style, take a look at our fantastic VIP tickets! There's a whole host of benefits that come with the tickets - check them out below:

**MEET-AND-GREET OPPORTUNITIES WITH SELECTED ARTISTS**

PLEASE NOTE: MEET-AND-GREETS CANNOT BE GUARANTEED

**A COMPLIMENTARY DRINK & FOOD SERVED IN THE VIP LOUNGE AT THE PENTHOUSE** VOUCHERS FOR THIS ARE GIVEN TO YOU AT WRISTBAND EXCHANGE

**VIP MAIN STAGE & CABARET STAGE VIEWING AREAS WITH BARS**

There's a limited number of VIP tickets available  
- so grab yours while you can, as they're proving popular!



## OR get a **PREMIUM** ticket at Pride...

**NEW for 2017!** Our PREMIUM tickets give you viewing access right in front of the main stage and the cabaret stage - both with access to your own bars! This area is shared with VIP ticket holders.



We are a Birmingham based peer support group for all people living with HIV

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or email us on  
[info@positivewestmidlands.co.uk](mailto:info@positivewestmidlands.co.uk)

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Please read the following information carefully to get the maximum festival enjoyment...

# Useful Info

## Do you have to buy a ticket/wristband to enjoy Pride?

You will need to purchase a **TICKET/WRISTBAND** to enter the Birmingham Pride festival site. Children under five don't need a wristband but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

If you don't have a ticket/wristband, you will still be able to enjoy the Carnival Parade completely **FREE** of charge.

## Do you have to be gay to attend?

No, you don't! Birmingham Pride is a celebration of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community - but everyone is welcome to join in the fun

However, any individuals who're found to have been homophobic or transphobic will be ejected from the Pride site.

## Anti-social or homophobic behaviour

Birmingham Pride operates a **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy towards anti-social or homophobic/transphobic behaviour. We reserve the right to eject anybody from the festival site.

## Pride at night from 9pm: 18+ ONLY

After 9pm on both Saturday and Sunday, only visitors who're over 18 will be permitted entry. We operate a Challenge 25 policy - so if you're lucky enough to look under 25, please ensure that you bring appropriate ID.

Anyone who's under 18 is welcome to stay on the site after 9pm - but if they leave the site, they will not be able to gain entry after 9pm.

Wristbands will be required for access throughout the night.

## Are children welcome?

We encourage families to attend Pride. Children under 14 must be accompanied at all times by an adult.

Children under five get **FREE ENTRY** so do not require a wristband (maximum of two children per parent or guardian).

## Wristband Information

If you've purchased a ticket prior to the festival, you will need to exchange this ticket for a wristband on the day - please see the Site Map to find out where you should do this.

Wristbands must be securely fastened or may be void.

Wristbands must be intact, in one piece and worn at all times

Torn or ripped wristbands will not be accepted for entry

Lost wristbands will not be replaced under any circumstances - and if you aren't wearing a valid wristband, you will be asked to leave the festival site.

Wristbands are not transferable between visitors

Wristbands are required for drink purchases at all venues and outdoor bars within the main festival site.

## Can we take alcohol and drinks into Pride?

**No alcohol or glass can be taken on to the festival site.**

Sealed plastic bottles of water are allowed. There will be lots of bars and catering within the site.

## Disabled Visitors

The organisers of Birmingham Pride wish to make the festival inclusive for ALL and recognise the need for easy access throughout the event for disabled visitors. There are various

features in place to cater for those with accessibility needs who are coming to Birmingham Pride. Visit our website below for further information.

## VIP tickets

Benefits to the holder of a special VIP Weekend pass include

- > Meet-and-greet opportunities with selected artists. However, these cannot be guaranteed
- > Fast-track entry into the site
- > VIP bar at The Penthouse
- > VIP main stage viewing area
- > VIP cabaret stage viewing area

## Where can we park?

There are three main car parks nearby that you can use over the Birmingham Pride weekend. Please see the map on page 11 for their locations

## Where do any profits go?

Birmingham Pride is a very costly festival to stage and basic infrastructure costs spiral every year, which is one of the main reasons why we charge an entrance fee for the event. However, Pride is a **NOT-FOR-PROFIT** organisation, and profits raised go to local LGBTQ and other charities and projects



FOR FURTHER  
INFORMATION, VISIT

[WWW.BIRMINGHAMPRIDE.COM](http://WWW.BIRMINGHAMPRIDE.COM)



## Sponsors, supporters and friends

A big thank you to all our principal partners and sponsors, without whose financial support Pride couldn't go ahead, and to our in kind supporters and friends, who've made a significant contribution

# Thank You



Principle Sponsor

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**BIG THANKS** to our sponsors, friends, supporters and the team

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### Charitable Organisations & Support Groups

SIFA Fireside  
**Festival Co-Ordinator**  
Peter Wright

**Event Assistant**  
Hope McGoldrick

### Security

Mac Clarke  
More Secure  
Dave Thompson

### Pride Main Stage

Simon Baker

### Manchester Airport Cabaret Marquee

Conrad Guest  
David Nash

### Dance Arena

Andrew Booth  
Warren McLeod

### Women's Stage

Andrew King  
Hilli Rishworth

### Alt Club Stage

Daniel Brown  
Antony Collins

### Birmingham LGBT Centre Community Programming

Steph Keeble  
David Viney

### Communications:

Martin Monahan  
Ryan Humphreys  
Sue Jones

### Contractors

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Funfair  
Stage Productions

### Events Team/ Health & Safety

Traffix  
Garry Peal

### Volunteers & Pride Ambassadors

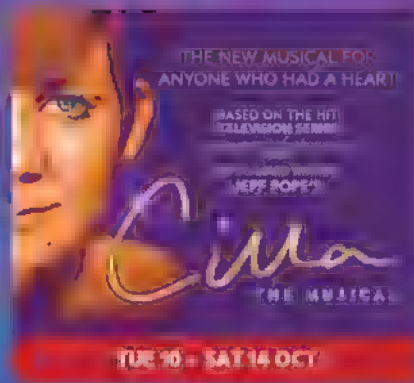
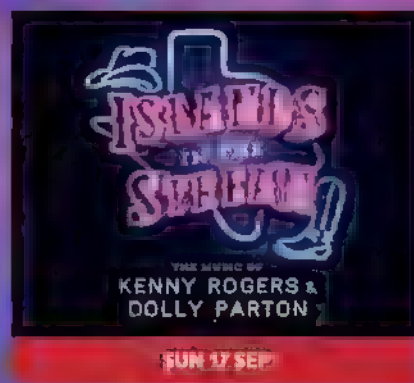
A very big thank you to Keith Perks and his amazing team, who have volunteered their time to this year's festival

### Supportive gay venues

And finally, to the gay venues/business owners and managers who have been supportive



**Birmingham Pride 2018**  
will be held on Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 May 2018



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## OPENING HOURS

Saturday:  
9am – 8pm

Sunday:  
11am – 5pm

Bank Holiday Monday:  
10am – 7pm

# BULLRING

# PRIDE OVER THE YEARS



**Birmingham LGBT's David Viney takes a look back at the history of Pride festivals - and 20 glorious years of Birmingham Pride...**

## Pride: The Long March To Freedom

As Birmingham Pride prepares to celebrate its 20th anniversary, we look back over the last 50 years to see the evolution of Pride, from a political act of defiance and solidarity to a celebration of diversity and community.

In many ways, the development of Pride mirrors the last 50 years of the community and our place in society

Imagine a time just after the 1967 Sexual Offences Act came into law; a time of police harassment and intimidation, including raids on bars, ostracisation from family, discrimination in personal interactions with work colleagues and friends, and even 'gay bashings' and murders.

Add to this already-toxic atmosphere for LGBT people a rampant hostility from

politicians and the press. This was the context in which people came together to begin the battle for the legislative equality we now enjoy

## The '70s/'80s: Pride As Protest

The earliest manifestation of Pride came about in the early 1970s, led by members of Gay Liberation and devised as political acts, to show solidarity, achieve visibility and demonstrate against the discrimination outlined above

The first marches took place in the United States in 1970. Here in the UK and the Midlands, in Birmingham, Gay Liberation Front regularly held protest marches, especially as part of larger events such as anti-Nazi rallies. In July



1972, they organised two 'gay days' in Cannon Hill Park and a march along New Street, with a rally outside the Town Hall.

Many Midlanders also travelled to the London Pride marches, the first of which also took place in 1972. Unlike today's celebrations of LGBT life and culture, these marches were highly politicised and very heavily policed. They represented the rising strength and aspira-



tions of the nascent gay rights movement.

During the '80s and early '90s, Pride marches took on new meaning. They became a lightning rod for community anger at the way the AIDS crisis had led to the dehumanising of gay men, press hysteria and the demonising of a whole community.

The community's final straw was Section 28, which led to the London marches, attracting several hundred thousand whistle-blowing and chanting marchers.

## We Still Partied In The '70s/'80s

However, in tandem with the emerging gay rights marches, Birmingham's bars and clubs were developing mini festivals such as Five Days Of Fun, a precursor to the May bank holiday Pride festival we have today.

The roots of the event can be traced back to the Grosvenor House Hotel on the Hagley Road in the mid 1970s, where an It's A Knockout-style contest (Google it!) took place in the grounds.

This fun day took the form of a tournament between the Nightingale Club and the hosts. From this event came the annual Five Days Of Fun, beginning in 1983 and taking place over the August bank holiday. Teams from different community and commercial ventures took part in It's A Knockout-type games.

The games took place in the car park of Albany House, behind what was then

Partners bar (currently Glamourous).

The event ran until the mid-1990s, when it was superseded by Birmingham Pride. Instrumental in its success was the unprecedented collaboration between the city's commercial venues, which ensured that events didn't compete with each other.

## First Brum Pride

Birmingham hosted its first Pride festival in 1997 and has held the event annually ever since. The first festival was a carnival event around the city's burgeoning gay village on Hurst Street, with about 10,000 people attending.

Opened by '90s gay icon Margarita Pracatan, the first Brum Pride was organised by a group of business and community volunteers called the Birmingham Triangle Committee.

Unlike the more politicised events around the world in the '90s, the 1997 Pride was purely about the community letting its hair down and coming together.

That said, the fact that the festival took to the streets at all made a hugely powerful statement in a city that was known for its conservative attitude towards the LGBT community. Initially there was no Pride parade. This came about in subsequent years.

## From March To Carnival Parade

The first Pride parade took place in the year 2000 and was called Mass Camp. The idea behind it was to create an event that allowed LGBT people and their families to enjoy a real carnival atmosphere, similar to Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras. Parades have taken place most years since, providing a colourful and exuberant start to the festival.

## The Impact Of Pride

I think it's fair to say that Pride has played a significant role over the last 20 years in raising the visibility of both the gay village area and the Birmingham LGBT community. The festival has gone from being something that was begrudgingly allowed by city authorities to a vital and celebrated part of Brum's cultural calendar.

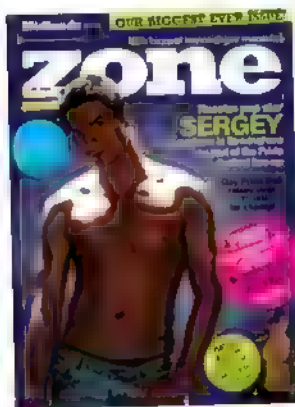
As Pride has grown in reputation and scale, so the gay village has thrived and developed, with the council even investing in infrastructure such as tree planting and lighting.

If anything symbolises the gradual but pronounced shift in society's attitudes towards LGBT people over the last 50 years, it's surely the evolution of Pride. And long may that continue ..

David Viney is the Health & Wellbeing Manager at Birmingham LGBT (and has celebrated many a Birmingham Pride).

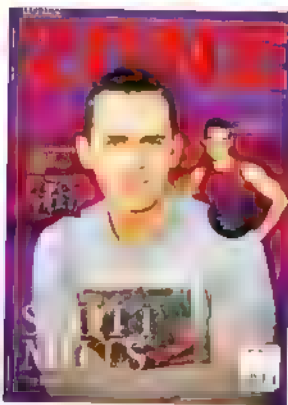
# Midlands Zone Pride covers over the years...

From the time of our very humble beginning back in 1997, we've been an active and enthusiastic supporter of Birmingham Pride. Over the years, we've dedicated many a Zone cover to the stars of Pride. Here are some of our favourites...



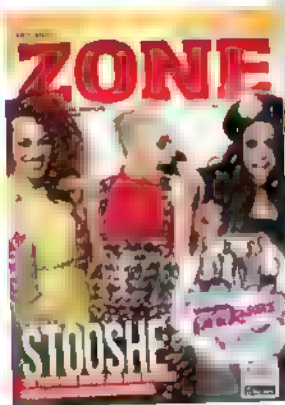
May 2008 ▲

You know us - we love a hunk on the cover! That's why we featured Russian pop star and 2008 Pride performer Sergey. Imagine what Putin would've said!



May 2012 ▲

Scott Mills - the 'face' of afternoons on BBC Radio One. He swung by Pride in 2012 to do an exclusive DJ set on the Main Stage. Don't ya just love him?



May 2013 ▲

They haven't got a Black Heart - and that's why we had the privilege of having StooShe as our Pride cover stars in 2013. They went on to rock the Main Stage that year.



May 2014 ▲

2014 saw Katy B grace the Zone cover and Pride Main Stage. The On A Mission star quickly became a firm favourite of the festival - so much so, in fact, that she was Zone's front cover star in 2016 too (see left)!



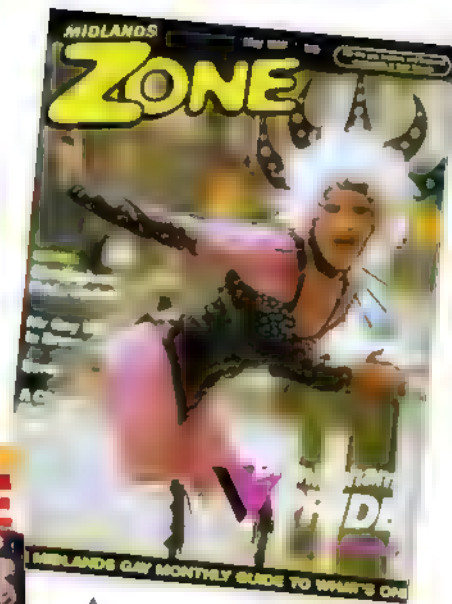
May 2015 ▲

Fresh from splitting with JLS, Marvin Humes graced Pride with his presence, accompanied by his group, Luv Bug. We thought it only right to put him on the cover.



May 2016 ▲

Yes, she's back! Katy B was such a sensation back in 2014 that she returned to the Pride Main Stage and was even more brilliant! We love you, Katy.



Issue 2 - May 1997

This is now a somewhat iconic cover, featuring Twigg - our first ever local cover star! And she's still rocking Birmingham today!



Today ▲

And here we are in the present day, with our front cover Pride artist being the fabulous Dua Lipa, the international recording artist who's notched up 400 million views on YouTube.



# Let's get cynical!

**Musical satirists Bourgeois & Maurice (aka cabaret performers Liv Morris and George Heyworth) reckon their latest show is, in common with a Kanye gig, a 'feast for the eyes' - but with a smaller budget and bigger egos.**

**We recently caught up with the London-based dynamic duo to find out what Midlands audiences can expect when the pair visit the Birmingham Hippodrome this month...**

## **How did you first meet?**

**B:** We met at university. When we left, we lived together for a year in a house which was a former brothel. Whilst we lived there, we used to mess around and make up songs and kind of just twat about together. After we moved out, we lived in separate houses but were still friends. George booked himself into an open-mic cabaret night at Madam JoJo's in London. I said, 'Oh, can I do something with you, mate? I feel like I want to get up on stage.' So we just wrote a couple of songs. The gig went well and we got an interview in Time Out. They asked when our next gig was, but we didn't actually have one - we hadn't thought that far ahead. So we called up a friend who ran a night and asked if we could do something. It just went from there, really.

## **How has your performance evolved since coming together?**

**M:** Essentially it's the same characters and the same act, but I think the way we feel about it now is very different to when we started out. I think when we began we had absolutely no idea what we were doing. It's not like there's a template for this kind of thing. We were probably a bit meaner. Sometimes, when

you're a bit insecure about what you're doing on stage, it can make you kind of freeze up a bit, and that can sometimes come across as being mean. You can see it with a lot of drag acts in their early years. A drag queen's act can be really mean, but when it becomes good is when they can be mean but funny at the same time, and kind of invite you into it. But it takes a while to get to that point. To begin with, you're just trying to cover up the fact that you have no fucking clue what you're doing on stage. I enjoy it more now than when I started because I feel more comfortable with it. I think we're much more outward looking. The show we're bringing to Birmingham, *How To Save The World Without Really Trying*, is kind of about globalism. It's trying to get into the heads of as many people as we can, whereas beforehand we were more interested in the immediate world around us.

## **What strapline would you use to sell your performance?**

**B:** I guess it's like an absurd, queer look at the state of the world. With some great outfits and some good rhymes.

**M:** What I say in the show is a couple of extraterrestrial weirdo things about pol-

itics, which is what it comes down to. I never know how to sum it up in one strapline. It's a couple of draggy aliens who've stumbled on current affairs.

## **Which fellow artists have provided you with the most inspiration?**

**B:** On the sort of queer-performance scene, I guess David Hoyle is a huge inspiration. We've worked with him a couple of times and he's great. And Jonny Woo, Scotty are contemporary artists who've provided us with inspiration. And also the kind of shit-storm that is the world today, sadly - that's our inspiration too. Depressing inspiration.

**M:** There are so many amazing performers out there. We perform a lot at the Soho Theatre in London, and that's massively inspirational. We've met so many amazing people there, like Lady Rizo and Spencer Jones, who's hilarious. There are loads of people who've inspired us.

## **Who provides you with the most material - Theresa May or Donald Trump?**

**M:** We started writing this show at the beginning of last year. There was a point where we were doing shows in New York,

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get support.**

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**[www.lgbtstoke.co.uk/chemsex](http://www.lgbtstoke.co.uk/chemsex)**

*Chemsex support and STI testing available at Cobridge Community Health Centre,  
Entrance H, Church Terrace, Cobridge, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 2JN*

so Trump was kind of the bigger feature of those because we were playing to an American audience. We didn't really think that he was actually going to get in. So it started with Trump at the beginning of last year, and then Brexit happened and Theresa May became prime minister. With people coming into and going out of power really quickly, we didn't have time to update the show every day, so we made it more about the kind of climate that we're living in, rather than about the individuals. It's more about this idea of division in the world and in society. That's really the focus of the show because that's the thing that we're interested in.

**What can Midlands audiences expect from your show at Birmingham Hippodrome this month?**

B: Although it deals with subjects that are quite large, it's very silly and hopefully quite a lot of fun. It should be an entertaining night, but with a few provocative questions involved in it. Hopefully, it's not a 'this is what we think'

message. It's like 'okay, this has happened, what do we think about it?' We like to ask questions rather than just provide people with straight-up flashy answers.

M: Some very wonderful outfits and lots of things that light up. The big trend in 2017 is lights. Real avant-garde dance moves. They can expect a good time and a think. Little things to think about every now and then are scattered in the show. They can expect some confetti.

**The show takes place whilst Birmingham Pride is on. Are you going to stop by and party?**

M: I think we're going to get down there early and hang out in Pride during the day. And I'm sure we'll be going to some parties later on.

**Speaking of Pride, do you think Pride festivals are still important in 2017?**

B: Yes I do. They've changed in nature from what they were to begin with - and I think there are still a lot of questions to be asked about corporate adoption of Prides - but I think the existence of them is absolutely important.

M: Yes, I think they're more important now than they've ever been. It's not just about what they say in this country or to one community of people, it's about what they say globally. I think Pride is really important to show that there's a really happy, healthy, massive community of people. And it isn't just LGBT people who go to Pride festivals. That's what's so nice about Pride - the people you see there are from all different walks of society.

**Your attire is quirky and colourful. Is that purely on stage or does it reflect your personalities off stage?**

B: It reflects our personalities off stage - although weirdly, I think a converse thing has happened, where the louder our outfits have become on stage, the quieter they've become off stage. I feel like I used to be a lot more avant-garde with my day-

time wear when I wasn't performing as much. The louder outfits have become 'work uniform', so my rebellion now is to wear normal clothes in the day.

M: I used to be much more flamboyant off stage - but now that we're bigger on stage, I don't feel the need to be. Yeah, I'd say my style is fairly flamboyant. I'm definitely enjoying a little bit of gender-fluid styling off stage at the moment.

**Where's the quirkiest venue you've ever performed?**

B: When we first started out, we used to perform in an old toilet, an old public toilet in London that had been turned into a bar. It's still there, called the Cellar Door. It's absolutely teeny but it's great, and I think it was a cottage for gays at some point in its history. We've done some weird corporate ones as well, but nothing as exciting as the toilet.

M: We used to play another place, which doesn't exist anymore, called the Black Gardiner. It was a burlesque club in Soho where Paloma Faith used to play. The toilets reeked of piss. We had to get changed in a kitchen that was so tiny we had to hang our costumes on the dish rack! I kind of miss that place - it had an amazing atmosphere.

**What does the future hold for Bourgeois & Maurice?**

M: We'll finish our summer tour in Australia, come back and start work on a brand new commission. I'm not allowed to say anything about it yet, though. This is for a much bigger show, which will be in 2019. That's the next big project. We're also working on a virtual reality project, so we're going to have a VR music video coming out soon. I've got this fantasy that we can go out to an audience with VR headsets on and do a set-up of a show where they use the headsets to watch the performance.

**Bourgeois & Maurice  
perform at Birmingham  
Hippodrome on  
Saturday 27 May**

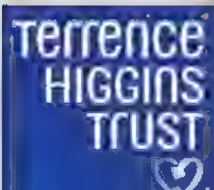


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27TH MAY 2017

# XXL BEAR PRIDE

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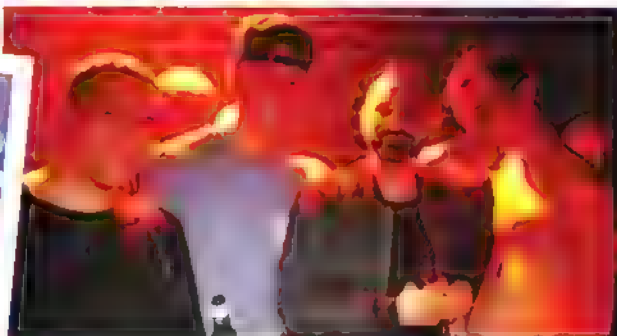
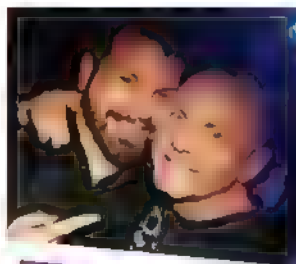
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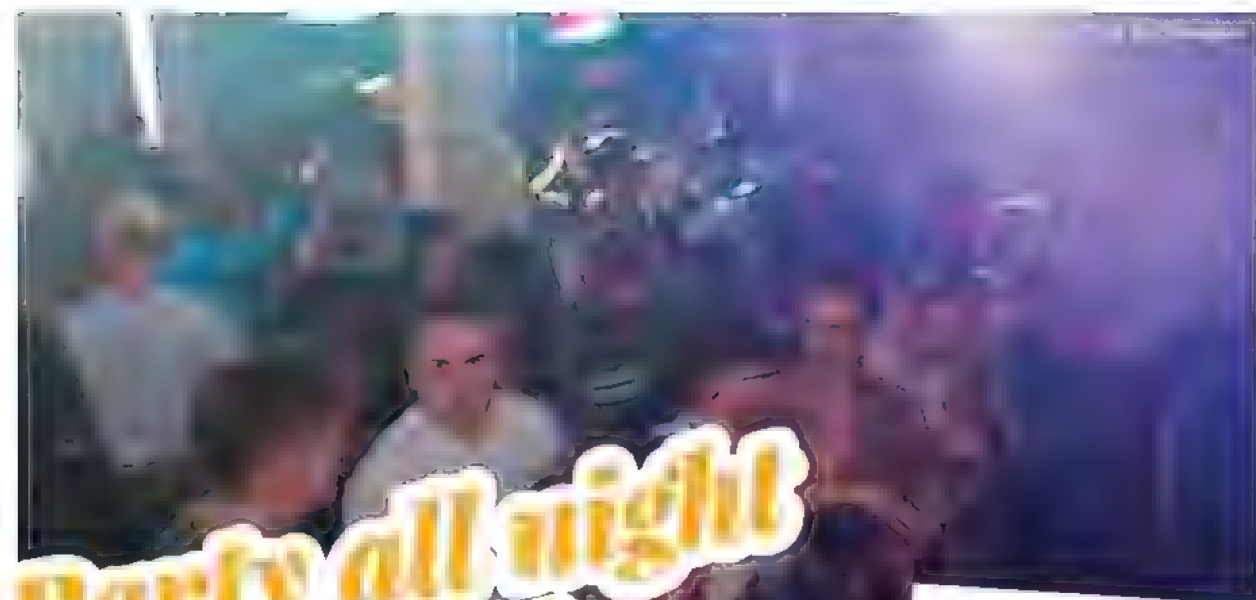


# XXL is a great night for the men of Brum!

There was yet another great night of clubbing action at Birmingham's award-winning one nighter XXL last month with hundreds of the city's guys descending on The Core for the night.

XXL returns to The Core, assisted by DJ Paul Morrell, for a Pride special on Friday 26 May.

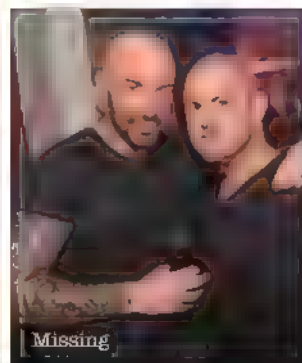


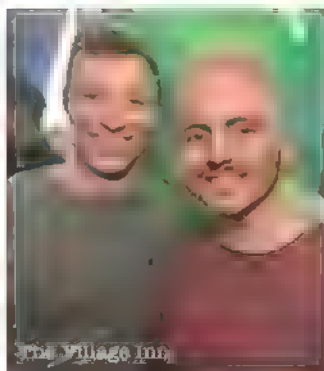
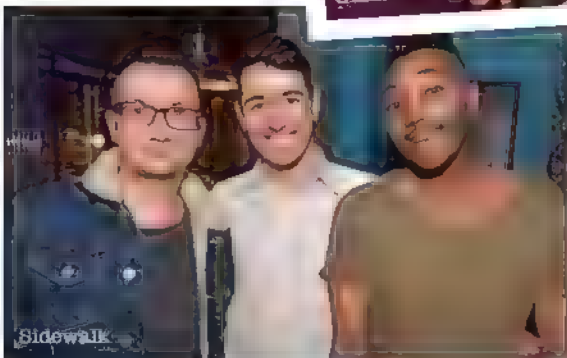
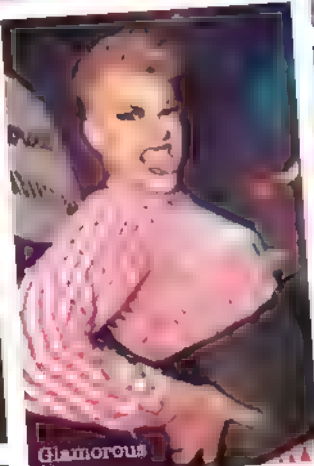


# Party all night in vibrant Birmingham

**If you're out for the night in Birmingham, then the city's gay scene is a great place to head for!**

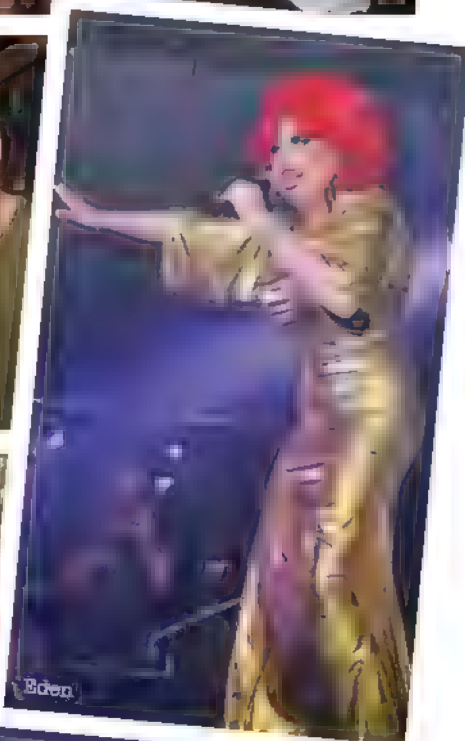
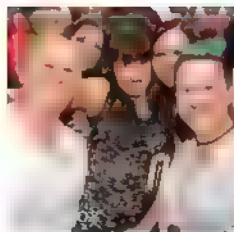
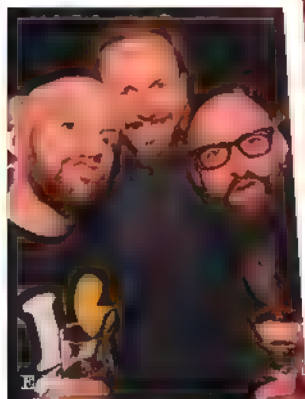
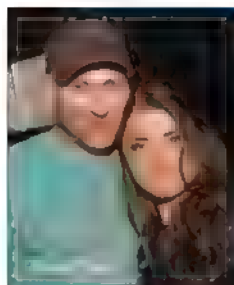
With over 15 bars and clubs to choose from, there really is something for everyone. It's a truly fantastic night out!

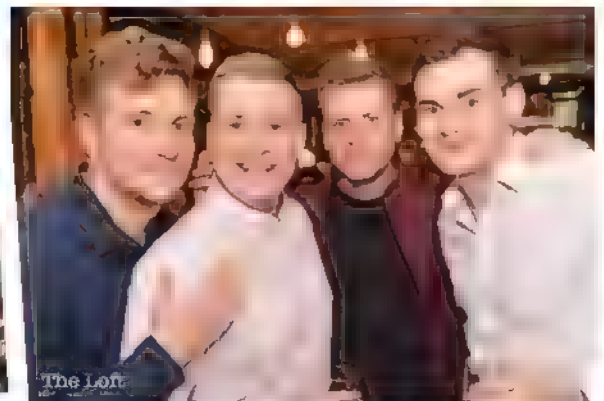
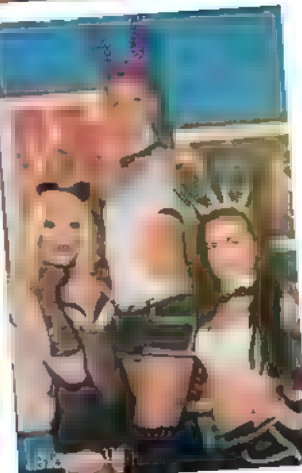
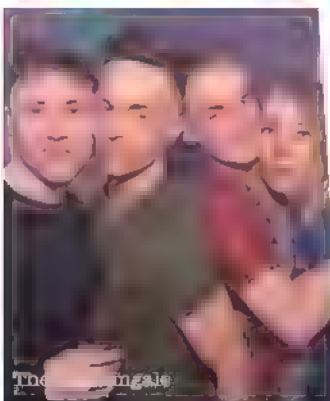
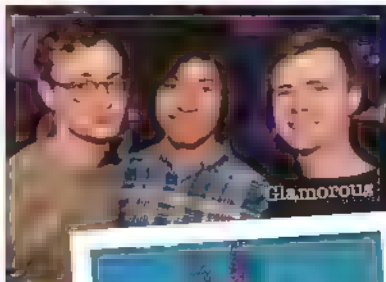
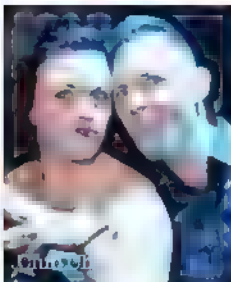
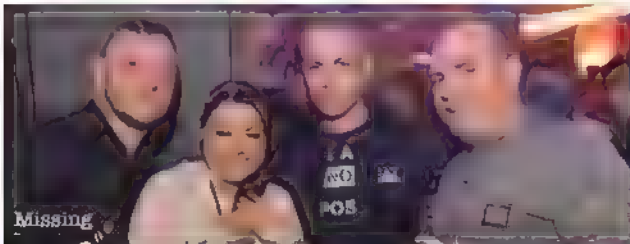
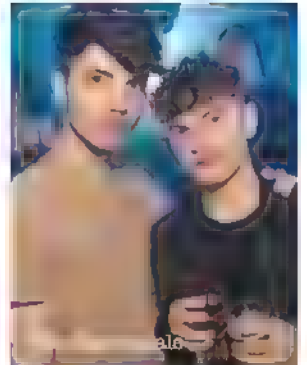
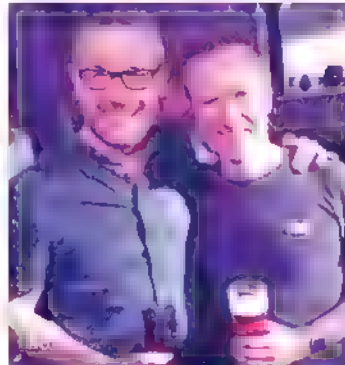
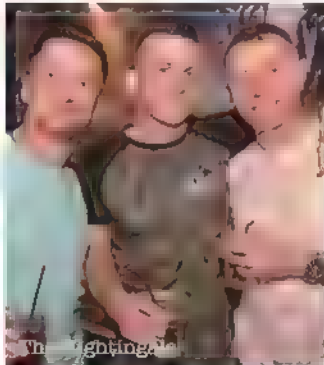
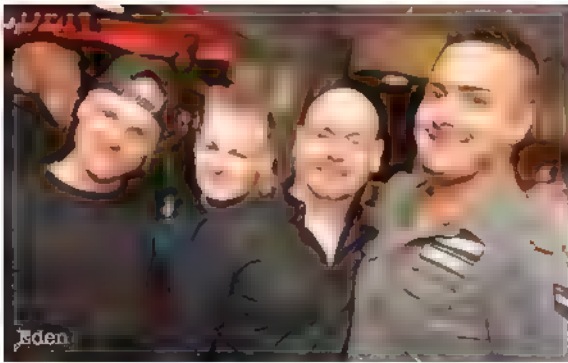




Pictures by Laura Nijme

# Party all night in vibrant Birmingham





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**Kwik Prick** is a free rapid HIV test for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities and is available at Trade every Monday\* from 12 noon until 6pm.

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Location: Trade, 2nd Floor,  
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For more information call us on 0116 254 1747  
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\*Kwik Prick is not available on Public Holidays  
Trade Charity Number: 1001952

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Day: Saturday 27th May  
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Place: 38 Narborough Road, Leicester LE3 0BO

**City Celts Sauna Clinic:**

Day: Mondays | Time: 4pm - 7pm  
Day: Wednesdays | Time: 3pm - 5pm  
Place: 33 New Bond Street, Leicester LE1 4RQ



Day: Thursdays  
Time: 3pm - 6pm  
Place: 61 Bedford Street, Leicester LE1 3JR



You can also check out Trade Sexual Health

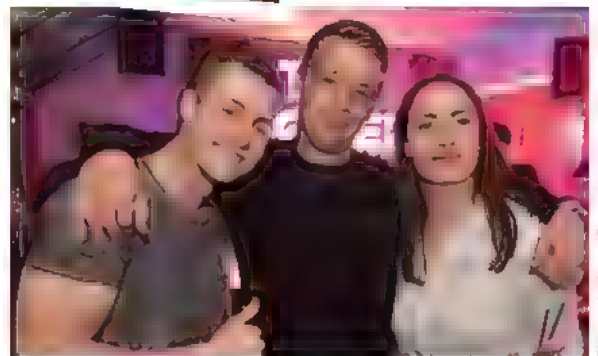
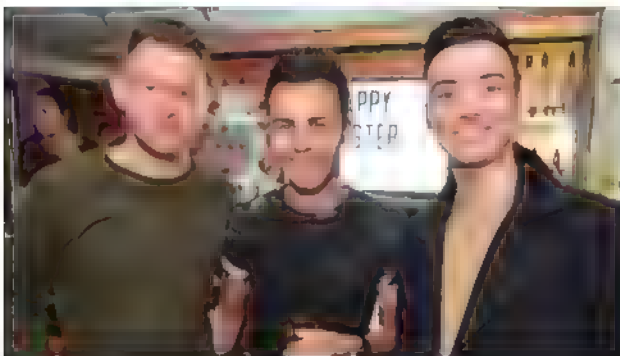
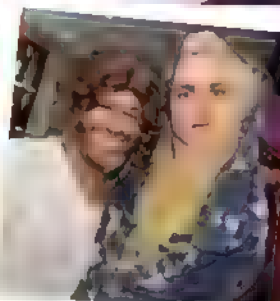
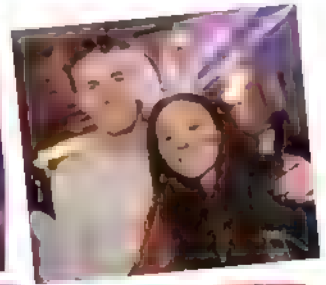
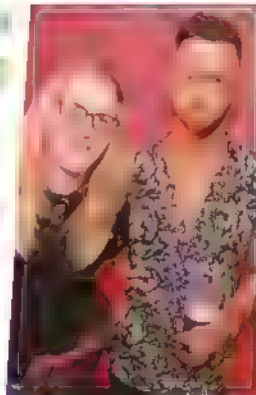
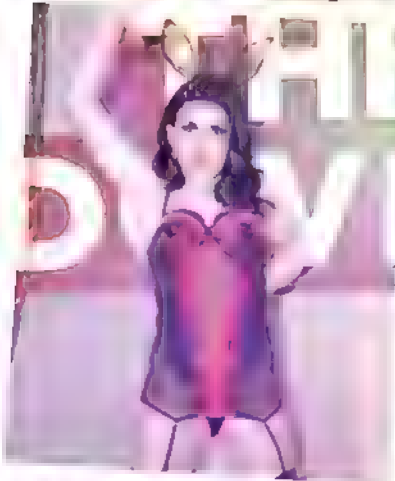
[www.tradesexualhealth.com](http://www.tradesexualhealth.com)

Further information available  
[www.leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk](http://www.leicestersexualhealth.nhs.uk)

# Dancin' down at Dover Castle

**We popped into Leicester's Dover Castle over the Easter Bank Holiday Weekend - and boy, what a fun crowd they are!**

The venue hosts cabaret throughout the month, with May's line-up being Vicki Vivacious on the 12th, Topsy Redfern on the 19th and the lovely Lola Lasagne on the 28th!



Pictures by Laura Byne

# GORGEOUS

PRIDE OF WOLVERHAMPTON

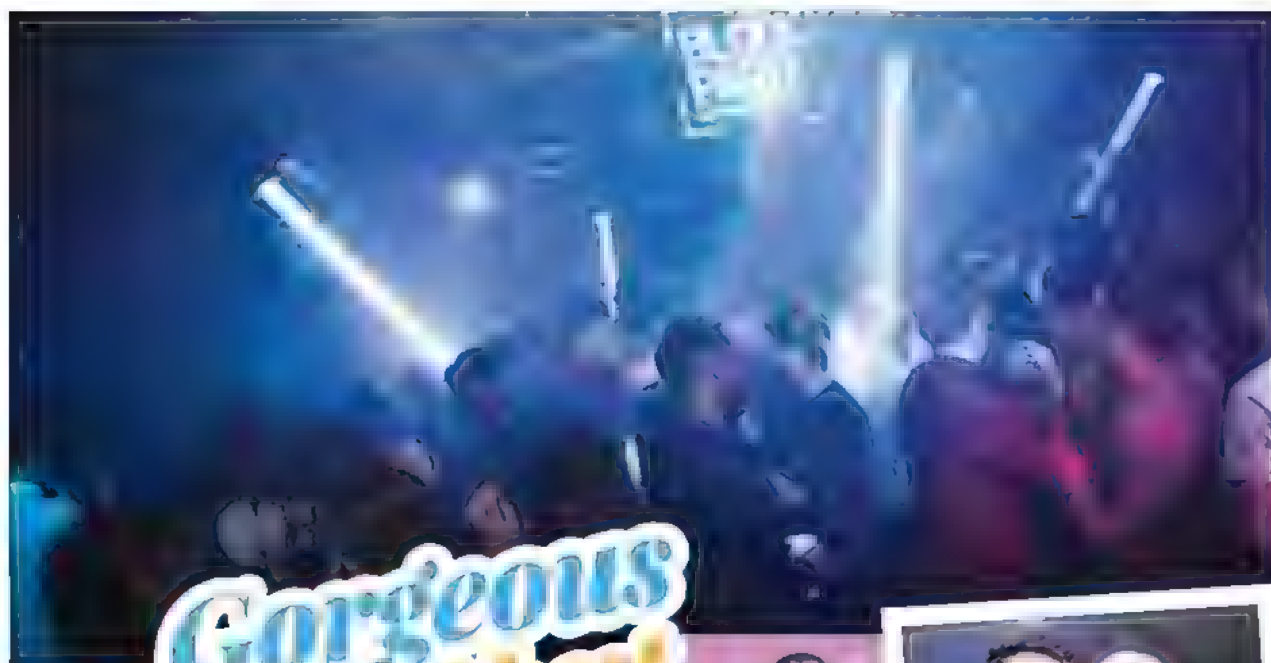
THURSDAY 12-6AM | FRIDAY & SATURDAY 7PM-6AM

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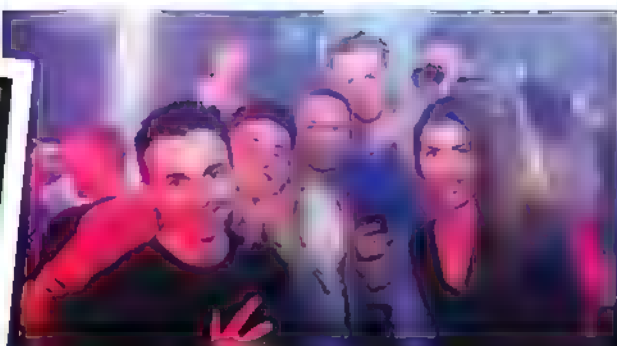
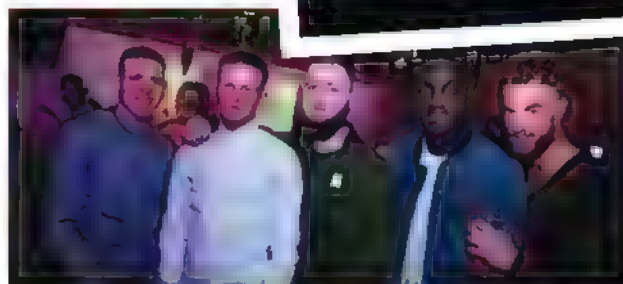
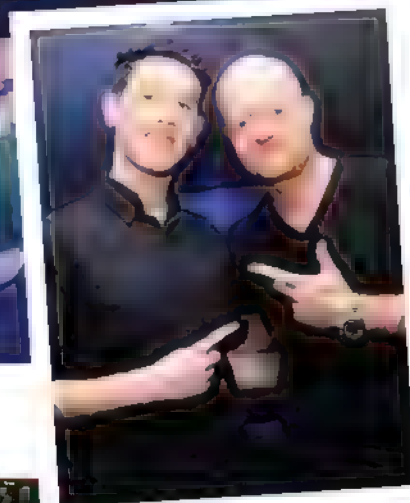
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# Gorgeous is Wolves' best place to party!

**Last month saw a storming night at Wolverhampton gay venue Gorgeous, with Kiss FM DJ Billy Da Kid packing the dancefloor and EastEnders' 'Max Branning' meeting fans!**

Gorgeous is always one of the most popular venues in the city, so if you've not been yet - DO.



Pictures by Andy Mole

# Are you ageist?



## Better with age...

**Pan-European research on ageing shows that in Britain, while there's admiration for the older generation, more people pity than envy those they regard as old. This indicates a negative perception that age brings frailty and unhappiness.**

'Ageism is discrimination or unfair treatment based on a person's age.' That's the dictionary definition, but how does that play out in everyday life for individuals in a society that can sometime fetishise youth? More importantly, how do we, as a community, approach ageing and older LGBT people?

Here at Birmingham LGBT, we're delivering a programme called Ageing Better, and some of the feedback from older LGBT people who participate highlighted the stigma older people can face. One participant stated, "I see it a lot, how people talk about older LGBT people - 'perverts', 'disgusting old men', 'worthless'."

Older people also report self selecting out of community activity because they fear being seen as 'old and past it', or worry that they'll be made to feel unwelcome. This highlights the generational nature of some of our social spaces. As another participant commented, "There's an emphasis on youth as being central to participation in LGBTQ+ communities."

Of course, Ageism isn't unique to LGBT communities, it cuts across society. However, UK research also shows that LGBT people are twice as likely to live alone and twice as likely to face isolation as their heterosexual counterparts. We're less likely to have children to support us later in life, and may be ostracised from our families of origin because of our sexual orientation and gender identity.

As a community, we need to come together to combat ageism, and connect to each other so that we all live healthier, happier lives. A wise person once said,

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." (Barack Obama)

So how can we, as a community, become the change that we seek? Avoid ageist comments and jokes. Ageism is subtle and everywhere, even embedded within our everyday language. Think about how use of language can stigmatise and exclude. For instance, calling someone an 'old perv' can be doubly stigmatising in an LGBT context, as we can often be called 'sexually deviant' or 'perverts' on account of who we love.

So get intergenerational: It's easy to 'other' people you have no social contact with. Talk to a range of people of different ages. Volunteer for a charity or group where you can work with people of all ages.

# Getting involved...

## What is Ageing Better?

The aim of the Ageing Better programmes is to combat the social isolation that people aged 50 and over can sometimes find themselves experiencing.

**Ageing Better is driven by the following core principles:**

- \* **Focusing on the positive aspects of ageing**
- \* **Enabling people aged 50-plus to have a say, and to feel that their participation and views are valued**
- \* **Connecting people by increasing the amount of social and community engagements they have**
- \* **Involving older people in the design and delivery of the activity**

Ageing Better in Birmingham supports community volunteers to set up social groups and fun activities that suit people aged 50-plus but which are also accessible to all age groups.

So far, the Ageing Better LGBT Hub has worked with 15 new and existing groups to create activities which have brought together around 350 LGBT and allied people of all ages. Participants have told us they really enjoyed getting out, meeting new people and going to places they wouldn't have gone on their own.

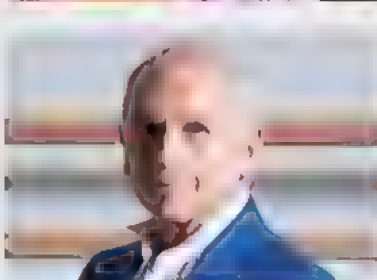
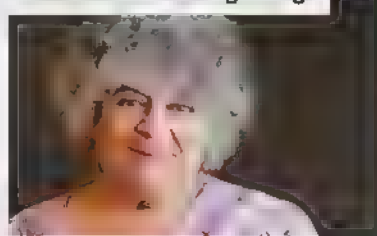
They also welcomed the variety of activities, the chance to learn something new and the experience of being in safe spaces where people could be themselves. The contributions of group organisers - people from the community who volunteer their own time and resources - were also appreciated, and the organisers themselves appreciated the opportunities to develop groups and activities that the Ageing Better LGBT Hub offers.

If you would like to get involved in the Ageing Better programme and make a difference to older LGBT people, please get in touch. In reality, each stage of life brings its own joys and challenges. Be kinder to each other; we're all ageing every single day, so let's all age better, together

**David Viney & Maria Hughes -  
Ageing Better Team (LGBT Hub)**



**Celebrities embracing old age**



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### Samsung Galaxy S8 Plus

The all new Samsung Galaxy S8+ is the Korean smartphone manufacturer's latest flagship device and features a stunning 6.2-inch dual edge Quad HD display that looks sharp and sexy. The 12MP camera shoots stunning pictures, and with 64GB of internal storage, plus an SD card slot, there's plenty of space to store them. It's also one of Samsung's most secure phones. As well as a fingerprint scanner, located on the back of the smartphone, there's an iris scanner, adding an extra level of security. The intelligent sensor reads the unique patterns of your eyes, letting you unlock the phone by simply looking at it.

From **FREE**  
[carphonewarehouse.co.uk](http://carphonewarehouse.co.uk)

### Panasonic TZ90

The Panasonic TZ90 is a super-compact, high resolution camera that's packed with useful features, including a 30x optical zoom, Leica lens with 24mm wide angle, new 20.3-megapixel High Sensitivity MOS sensor, 4K Photo mode and new three-inch tilting LCD screen.

**£399.00**  
[jessops.com](http://jessops.com)



### Rega Planar 1

Vinyl has enjoyed a huge resurgence in popularity with music lovers, but what's a good piece of hardware for you to play your beloved music collection on? The Rega Planar 1 is one of the most attractive turntables on the market, and functions pretty well too.  
**£248.00** [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)



### Bose SoundLink Revolve

The SoundLink Revolve is the latest portable speaker from Bose. It delivers true 360° sound for consistent, uniform coverage. Just place it in the centre of the room and everyone gets the same experience. Or set it near a wall and sound will radiate and reflect around the room, 'immersing' you. It's also great for taking outdoors as Bose says, it's meant to go wherever you go.

**£199.95**  
[bose.co.uk](http://bose.co.uk)

### Juicero Press

If you're lazy enough not to bother juicing your own fruit and veg to make a healthy drink, then let the Juicero press do it for you. It's the world's first countertop cold-press juicer, designed to make your life easier and quicker. But let's be honest: if you can't be bothered to juice, then why would you even bother drinking it?

Coming Soon  
[juicero.com](http://juicero.com)



# GREAT GADGETS

The latest tech and accessories!

# Local Life Story

**Name:** Matt Keogh  
**Place of birth:** Earlswood  
**Star sign:** Capricorn  
**Age:** 48

## About Matt Keogh

**Where did you grow up?**

Earlswood, near Shirley.

**Single or attached?**

Attached.

**What makes you happy?**

Pottering around the garden at night or walking the dog in my local park.

**What makes you sad?**

The way the world seems to be going at the moment, with intolerance becoming acceptable again. The constant move to push back LGBT rights and the fact that there's still so much stigma and shame attached to having HIV.

**What makes you angry?**

That hideous Trump

**If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?**

I'd have dark brown hair, eyebrows and eyelashes.

**What's been the most**

**embarrassing thing you've done in your life?**

Too many to mention. Usually walking into something when I'm talking

**Now that same-sex marriage has been legalised, would you consider getting married?**

I'm not really sure. We've discussed it - usually because most people ask - but I never really believed in marriage. We had a civil partnership after I was seriously ill with Burkitt's lymphoma about 18 years ago, primarily because we were too lazy to see a solicitor about doing a will. We've been together 22 years, so marriage seems kind of irrelevant to us other than in terms of paperwork. I think I'd rather spend the money on a holiday

## Coming Out

**When did you first know you were gay?**

I think I knew from the age of six. All my big crushes were on men, but I didn't really have the words for it at that age, or see it as being anything unusual. So I'll stick to saying I was 13 or 14 years old when I really knew

**When did you come out?**

I told a couple of friends when I was about 16 and then came out to my parents when I was 19, just before I went to study in Kent.

**What was school like for you as a gay teenager?**

Not as bad as it could've been, but I generally hated it and kept my head down. I remember at 16 being in a current affairs lesson when we were encouraged to debate topical items. One kid in my



class entitled his debate, 'In light of AIDS, should gays be shot?' to which our teacher replied, 'I'm not supposed to give an opinion, but I would say most definitely yes!' Needless to say, I couldn't wait to leave that place

**Who was the first person you told you were gay, and what was their reaction?**

Probably my sister, who was fine about the whole thing and continued to tease me just as much as she had before

**What would you say to a youngster trying to come to terms with their own sexuality?**

You're okay. Don't rush it, be whoever you want to be and don't let anyone tell you what you should or shouldn't do.

**Have you had any experiences with the opposite sex?**

Other than a few early 'doctors and nurses'-type incidents at a very early age, not much. I did once get accused of sleeping with a girl, which I denied vehemently. So I think everyone probably guessed after that.

## Quickfire

**Who's your favourite actor?**

Garrett Dillahay - American

**What's your favourite book?**

With the exception of Sunday, I don't read for the sake of reading. I prefer to read what I want

**Half empty or half full?**

Empty. Always needs a top up

**What's your favourite food?**

Anything that's not meat. I like fish and veg

**And how about your favourite drink?**

White & vodka. Preferably ice

**Madonna or Lady Gaga?**

Madonna. (She's a bit of a diva, but she's a diva)

## Your Career

**When you were younger, what did you want to be?**

The new David Attenborough or a vet. Or maybe an Abba groupie.

**What was your first job when you left school?**

I started work aged 13 or 14 in a garden centre. I did that every weekend and over the holidays until I was 19. After college, I became an unqualified youth worker for what was then the HIV Network in Coventry, facilitating their weekly young-LGBT group. I also worked full time doing support work for a disability charity, but I left there in 1999 when my union rep decided to tell most of the staff I had AIDS and that everyone needed protective clothing.

**What is your role at Birmingham LGBT?**

I'm the new Peer Mentor & Volunteer Coordinator. I will be coordinating our Peer Mentoring project, supporting anyone LGBT who's looking for support with issues around coming out, isolation, gender identity, relationships, living with a long-term health condition, including HIV, as well as giving people an opportunity to explore any issues around their sexual health and relationships. I'll also be coordinating our volunteer services in relation to our meet-and-greet roles at the centre and sexual health outreach work.



**What are the challenges in your job?**

Hard to say at the moment, as I only started in mid-January, but I should imagine it's going to be a balancing act between ensuring that we have enough volunteers to support LGBT people who wish to access peer mentoring, and ensuring that those volunteers reflect our diverse LGBT community. As I'm also going to be managing our centre volunteers, a big challenge will be ensuring not only that we have enough volunteers to support our range of services, but also that our volunteers feel motivated, skilled and supported in the important services that they provide for us.

**What are the highlights?**

Meeting so many different people and working with some great individuals who are committed to giving their time to support the local LGBT population and services.

**How does the role help the local LGBT community?**

The volunteers will ensure that we're able to support more people through difficult situations in their lives, and give them encouragement to enable them to identify positive changes they can make.

**Where do you see yourself in five years time?**

Hopefully still here at Birmingham LGBT, unless I decide to leave the UK,

which looks more and more tempting the way things are going in this country.

## Gay Scene

**How long have you been frequenting the Midlands gay scene?**

Probably since I moved to Birmingham in 1992, although it's been a long time since I went out anywhere

**And what's been your fondest memory of the gay scene?**

Dancing all night long with a stash of two-for-one drinks in the corner.

**Who's your favourite person on the gay scene?**

The friends I'm with.

**What have you noticed about the way the gay scene has changed over the years?**

It's obviously a lot bigger these days. And now I'm older, it obviously looks a lot younger these days too!

**How would you change the gay scene?**

I'd like to see more variety in music and alternatives to pubs and clubs

## Time Out

**Where do you like to go on a night out?**

Cinema, dinner or a concert.

**What do you do to relax?**

Gardening. Best thing for the soul, getting mucky!

**What do you enjoy on telly?**

Scandi crime dramas like The Killing and The Bridge.

**What was the last album or track you bought?**

Recto Verso by Paradis. Kind of mixture of dance, 80's music and a splash of French pop.

**Which one website do you spend the most time on?**

Film websites.

**Which type of holiday do you prefer?**

City holidays, I get bored lounging around doing nothing and I'm not fussed by hot weather.

# munch

Food and drink news from across the Midlands...

## OKO SUSHI BAR

A new sushi bar will this month open on the ground floor of popular Birmingham nightspot Nuvo.

OKO describes itself as the city's 'newest cosmopolitan, pan-Asian restaurant & lounge bar, bringing the authenticity of the far east to the UK'.

Although sharing the same entrance as Nuvo, OKO will be a totally separate restaurant and bar area.

For more information, visit [okosushibar.com](http://okosushibar.com)



The owners of Wolverhampton's Grain Store are inviting city residents to try out the 'weird and wonderful new world' of their Gin emporium and kitchen when it opens this month.

"You can enjoy working your way through over 30 different specimens of juniper and botanicals," says the venue's Kelly Davis. "Coming into the weekend, the tempo will increase with a brand new Shoreditch-inspired Friday Club, starting from 5pm every week. On Saturdays, our resident DJ will be bringing you the best in chilled house, disco and funk, making it the perfect social hub for all occasions."

## Water winner! Another canalside bar...

The award winning New World Trading Company is this summer set to open its second Birmingham venue.

The Canal House, located on Bridge Street in the former James Brindley building, will create over 80 new jobs in the city

The venue will be The New World Trading Company's sixth brand, joining The Club House, The Oast House, The Smugglers Cove, The Trading House and Birmingham's The Botanist (pictured right)





Birmingham's award winning Opus restaurant is this summer offering its Friday-night patrons a dozen complimentary Carlingford rock oysters with every bottle of Champagne they purchase.

The rock oysters are cultivated in the waters of County Lough in Ireland and are renowned for their sweet, rich and nutty flavour...

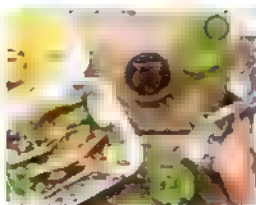
The offer is available for tables of up to 16 diners. For details, visit [opusrestaurant.co.uk](http://opusrestaurant.co.uk)

## Mexican chain Chilango on its way to the Midlands

Multi award winning Mexican restaurant chain Chilango has plans to open a new eatery on Birmingham's Colmore Row later this year.

Serving burritos, tacos, protein boxes, salads, vegan pots and much more, the restaurant will be the second venue opened by the company outside London. In total, Chilango currently has 11 establishments.

An opening date for the new Birmingham restaurant has yet to be announced. For more information, visit [chilango.co.uk](http://chilango.co.uk)



## Argentinian steakhouse Gaucha opens in Birmingham

Renowned Argentinian steakhouse Gaucha is this month opening a branch in Birmingham.

Located in the city's Colmore District, the 120-cover restaurant - opening its doors on Monday 8 May - will bring all aspects of its brand to Birmingham, including its famous Electro Brunch menu, wine tasting and beef masterclasses

For more information, visit [gauchorestaurants.com](http://gauchorestaurants.com)



## Michelin-starred chef to open premises in The Mailbox

A twice Michelin-starred chef will open his own restaurant in Birmingham premier lifestyle and shopping destination The Mailbox later this year

Atul Kochhar (pictured left) is renowned for his ability to combine his Indian heritage with his love of British ingredients. His new restaurant will span over 5,000sq ft and showcase high-quality but affordable spiced dishes that draw inspiration from countries across the world.

Visit [nrirestaurant.co.uk](http://nrirestaurant.co.uk) for more information.

## Food on the up after refurbishment!



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## LIFE OF A THIRTYSOMETHING GAY

# “Prejudice & Pride”

**As I sat there in my second achingly kitsch restaurant of the week on yet another date, chatting to a great guy about life, it suddenly occurred to me how good we've got it. There we were in the middle of Birmingham, surrounded by a predominately straight clientele, chatting away about coming out, our lives, our hopes and ambitions. The waitress came and went, making us feel incredibly welcome, and the tables either side of us could inevitably overhear parts of our conversation. Yet despite this, nobody batted an eyelid.**

Turn the clock back 50 years and this idyllic restaurant date scene would have been unthinkable. Homosexual men were, by our 'condition', marked in law as degenerate sodomites, forced underground, isolated from society and held in great contempt. To be seen overtly touching or kissing another man would certainly have resulted in being reported to the authorities. An arrest would have followed, as would a prosecution in court and up to two years hard labour in prison, along with - or instead of - a series of 'treatments' which constituted little more than barbaric chemical castration. Thousands of men lost their lives as a result of this torture. Homosexual men literally and daily lived in fear of their lives, conducting what life they could behind closed doors or at private underground meeting places. Even behind these closed doors, things were not safe, as homes and illicit venues risked raids from the local police force. Many men were too afraid to do anything and instead married to downplay suspicion. If two men cohabited, or a single man was spotted in the regular company of other ad hoc males, the suspicion of buggery could see you incarcerated. Prosecutions after the Second World War increased dramatically as a more robust conservatism dominated the courts. It was simply an unimaginably difficult chapter in our long history of persecution - and one that's still within living memory for some of my own friends.

Yet in 1957, the Wolfenden Committee was convened to address the 'issue' of homosexuality and prostitution. The make-up of the panel - a judge, a psychiatrist, an academic and a gaggle of theologians - offered a solid clue about the direction in which the discussion was to move. Its principal findings, however, were explosive, concluding that the law did not have the right to legislate on the private lives of individuals, regardless of whether the sexual acts themselves committed behind closed doors were 'sinful'.

It was an important step forward, but one that came to precious little until the liberal peer, Lord Arran, and Leo Abse, a Jewish MP, stepped up in the mid 1960s. Through their pioneering liberal leadership, the Sexual Offences Act, passed in 1967, decriminalised though stopped short of legalising for the first time since the 16th century, sexual acts between two consenting adult males, providing they were both aged 21 or over and that the acts were conducted behind closed doors. Overnight, the threat of prosecution simply for being gay in England and Wales was partially removed. In public, you remained at risk of the law.

It was the start of a revolution, and 50 years later we have most, if not yet all, of our equalities. The road before us is still a long one, though. Yet despite this milestone, it's worth remembering that the law didn't change in Scotland until 1980 and in Northern Ireland until 1982. And it wasn't until the year 2000 that the age of consent was equalised at 16 for both gay and straight people.

This month, I'll be joining the Pride parade as it seeks, through its theme of Love & Pride, to celebrate the important journey we've been on. Also joining in will be the National Trust. In my day job, I work for them, so you'll find me getting behind them as we and a gaggle of supporters proudly wear our Pride rainbow oak leaf t-shirts and parade alongside everyone else who supports our community. The Trust is committed to a bit of navel gazing and genuinely



wants to reach out in order to become more welcoming and open to everyone, irrespective of who they are.

It feels fitting that, as we parade around Birmingham, we are free to hold hands, kiss one another and be open in a way that past members of our community were denied, even after 1967. Organisations have woken up to the fact that there are many in their employ who are from our richly diverse community. They understand that we're the same as everyone else, and that we have a lot to offer. The National Trust is running with the theme of Prejudice & Pride, seeking to tease out and celebrate the often hidden stories within the rich tapestry of our cultural heritage. So visiting some Trust properties in 2017, you can begin to uncover LGBT plus stories which are screaming to be liberated from their closets. As a gay employee, I (and my colleagues) are working hard to create a legacy for this LGBT-plus focus, whilst working with Stonewall to set up an internal National Trust gay network. It's time, the National Trust believes, to stand up and be counted as an organisation that cares for our community. You'll see us at Pride on a stand, too. Come over and say hi - it would be good for you to tell us what you think of the National Trust - the good, the bad and the genuinely ugly. The NT is listening. Celebrating our journey, sharing our stories and pushing boundaries makes us all stop and think.

Together, in celebration, we can change the world. Have a fantastic Pride, folks.

Holding hands is one of the most fundamental and sweet ways in which people demonstrate their affection for each other. It starts with parents holding their children's hands to keep them safe - and stop them pocketing all the chocolates in the supermarket. And it goes on to couples holding hands to demonstrate their love.

Hand holding is really a beautiful thing. I'm ignoring here the occasion when, in a crowd at Pride, I reached out behind me to grab my partner's hand but accidentally ended up pushing my way through the masses while dragging some other poor woman along with me. That was just unfortunate. I'm also forgetting May holding hands with Trump. That was beyond unfortunate.

But hand holding can also be a powerful gesture.

Many gay people sadly feel they have to avoid holding their partner's hand in public places because it's a very physical demonstration of being in a



couple, and thus a demonstration of being gay.

In the Netherlands last month, two gay men were attacked on their way home from a night out by a group of thugs. They had been spotted holding hands. Tragically, homophobic attacks remain a part of life. Things have improved enormously for many gay people in terms of their safety, but attacks still do happen. What was remarkable about this Dutch attack is what happened as a result.

A campaign under the hashtag #alle-mannenhandinhand [all men hand in hand] was launched. It has seen male politicians, public figures and

police officers photographed holding hands with each other, in support not only of the couple who were attacked but also of anybody else who may fear the same happening to them.

It's a simple act, holding hands, but the photographs are striking and powerful. The images of suited, powerful men, confidently and proudly holding hands with each other, drive home just how rarely we see that in groups of people aged older than eight. Yet it's such a strong gesture of unity and strength that it's surprising we don't see it more often.

In fact, it's given me an idea that will not only solve our traffic and vehicle pollution problems but also get all of us holding hands more often. We should get rid of buses and cars and replace them with the same 'walking buses' we make kids do. Our commuter lanes would be filled; not with cars, but with lines of adults holding hands with each other on their way to work. The city would be a far more beautiful place.

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ANDREYA TRIANA

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WNS



# ON THE BALL

with Steve Ball

## “Miss Ojonney”

There's an interesting story doing the rounds on social media based on the experience of a woman who works at a high-end makeup store where she regularly interacts with gay male customers, some of whom go in to buy eyeshadow or blusher. A customer had come in, and when the woman offered to help, he replied, "Honey, I don't need help from you. You need help from me."

When she told her female colleagues about the incident, they told her their gay male customers frequently call them "bitch" and worse, and get defensive when women say they don't like it. It's cool, they insist, because they're gay.



But no, it's not okay. Just because we aren't sexually attracted to women doesn't mean that we can behave like a gay Donald Trump, grabbing at every

woman with impunity. We all know someone who loudly tells anybody who will listen how disgusted they are by vaginas, and guys who think it's fine to drunkenly grope a woman's breasts in a bar because he's not attracted to her.

But misogyny doesn't just hurt women, it hurts gay men too, because misogyny is at the root of homophobia. Society has a negative relationship with femininity; it's regarded as an insult to walk, throw or talk like a girl. When a gay man is beaten up or taunted as a 'faggot', it's because he's viewed as being like a woman. And we can be our own worst enemies, too - just look at all the 'straight-acting only' profiles on Grindr.

So next time one of our mates gets off on verbally abusing or groping a woman, let's suggest to him that he would benefit from a little education. If he doesn't evolve past his own misogyny, it's not because his sexuality gives him permission not to, it's because he refuses to learn.

Let's make life easier for all LGBT people and stop mimicking the worst parts of Straightville. When it comes to treating women like whole people, not objects or accessories, some gay men still have work to do. But who knows?... We could even begin to support each other, and take pride in doing so.

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# THE VIRAL ROUND-UP

Here's what we've been looking at online...

We all do it - spend hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Often, we're distracted from what we should be doing by cat videos and funny pranks - or by something feelgood that's been shared so much on the net it's officially classed as 'viral'. Well, here are some of Midlands Zone's favourites from the past month!



## DOREEN TIPTON sends a message of support for Birmingham Pride festival

Queen of the Black Country Doreen Tipton last month sent a hilarious video message of support for Birmingham Pride, to all of the 'lesbian, gay, bifocal and transparent' people of the Midlands. The video has racked up an impressive 200,000 views. Despite Doreen not being gay herself, she's

often been tempted because "at least if you're lesbians, there's two of you to do the washing up".

We promise you'll love this satirical video, so be sure to check it out on the Birmingham Pride Facebook page at [fb.com/BirminghamPride](http://fb.com/BirminghamPride)

## CELEB SNAPS!

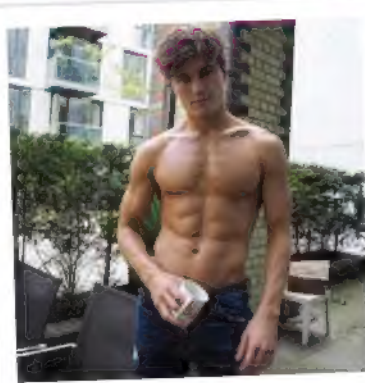
Our fave celeb Instagram snaps...



Ex-Union J star George Shelley, in a cheeky pic with his new boyfriend.



Tom Daley and Dustin Lance Black share a nice pic from Paris!



Paloma Faith's boyf Oliver Cheshire is certainly getting our pulses racing!

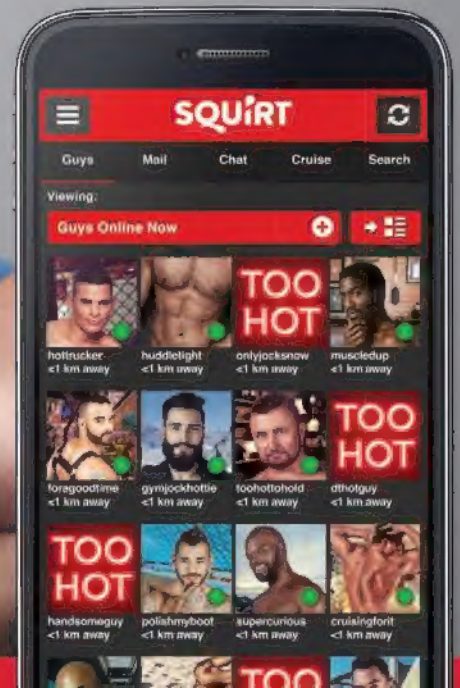
## HOT STUFF! BROADWAY BARES reveal steamy trailer!



There are quite a few things we enjoy here at Midlands Zone - New York, musicals and hunky men being three of them. Luckily, we're in for a real treat! The 150-strong cast of Broadway Bares, a charity show featuring Broadway's hottest dancers, have announced this year's show theme - Strip U. The show takes place in New York City, so we're checking down the back of our sofas for spare change to fund a trip to catch this must-see event, which has raised \$1.5million for the HIV/AIDS cause. Watch the steamy trailer here: [youtu.be/dq3\\_yJpmgYU](http://youtu.be/dq3_yJpmgYU)

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**ANDY BUTLER**  
(HERCULES & LOVE AFFAIR)

**RAF DADDY**  
(THE 2 BEARS)

**DAN BEAUMONT**

**HANNAH HOLLAND**

**+ BLANK RESIDENTS**

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**HONEY SOUNDSYSTEM**  
(BÉZIER & JOSH CHEON)

**JONJO JURY**

**HANDSOME**

**+ BLANK RESIDENTS**



**27.05.17**

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# Is it time to Brexit from Eurovision?

So, the UK is leaving the European Union. But fear not, music fans. Triggering Article 50, praise be to ABBA, doesn't mean we'll be exiting the Eurovision Song Contest.

But will us packing our suitcase and leaving the EU actually make a difference to how we do in the Contest? Well, let's look at some facts. There are 42 countries taking part this year, with 16 of them not being members of the EU. Why would the UK leaving the EU matter to them? Is there any reason why Albania and Azerbaijan, for example, would care?

What of the other 25 countries that are in the EU? Will they decide to punish the UK for our decision to go?

Fifty percent of the votes for Eurovision come from juries made up of musical professionals in each country. They have to rank the songs in the final from their favourite (1st) to their least favourite (25th), so it's technically possible that these so-called experts could, irrespective of the quality of our song, decide simply to put the UK last if they don't agree with our decision to leave. Of course, most likely is these jury members won't give a diggi-loo diggi-ley about our attitude to the EU, and just judge the songs on whether they like them.

The other 50% of the votes come from the public, voting by phone or app. You only vote for the songs you want to do well. There's no way of registering a negative vote for a country. You can't ring up someone at Eurovision headquarters in Switzerland and say you'd like the UK to do really badly. Again, ironically, what might happen is members of the public in the other 25 EU states who have Brexit sympathies might just vote for the UK to say they agree with our decision to go. But I don't really believe that will happen. At around 11pm on a Saturday night, after five large beers, I'm not sure Stephan from Germany or Pedro

from Spain will be thinking much about Brexit when they come to vote. Because they're just like us Brits - they might just think a song is quite catchy, or they might like the fact that the song features a performer in a gorilla suit...

This year's UK entry is called I Will Never Give Up On You, which a lot of UK Eurovision fans (well, maybe two or three) have redubbed, I Will Never Give Up On EU. Maybe the great European public will listen to the lyrics and think we're sending a subliminal message about how we regret our decision to leave. Or maybe they'll just think our song is a solid ballad sung by a very good singer.

Another problem with blaming any potential bad result on Brexit is that we can't exactly say we've been doing that well at Eurovision this millennium. Since 2000, we've only been in the top 10 twice (2002 and 2009). Is this really because the rest of Europe hates us? No.

Ponder the UK entries from Bonnie Tyler and last year's British singers - Joe And Jake. Their songs really weren't that bad, but they weren't that good either. And in the year that Sweden won with ludicrously brilliant Euphoria, who did the UK send? Engelbert Humperdinck. Lovely chap, but this was 2012. Unsurprisingly we came second last. And the less said about the entries from Scooch and Electro Velvet the better. Again, lovely people, but the songs were embarrassing.

The truth is the contest has moved on and, although it still has its fair share of



Europop, it also has some credible and contemporary pop. And the masters of this new, modern Eurovision sound? Sweden. They're pretty much always in the top 10, so if they'd done a 'Swexit' this year, it really would've been fascinating to see if it affected their final position.

The UK gave the world The Beatles and Adele. We probably invented modern pop music. So it's no wonder that everyone has high expectations of us. Honestly, it's a lie to say that we don't do well because 'the rest of Europe hates us'.

In my experience, the rest of Europe loves our music - they love the songs of the Pet Shop Boys, Ed Sheeran and Little Mix. They just wish that our Eurovision entries could live up to the quality released by artists like these.

This year marks the 60th time the UK has taken part in the Eurovision Song Contest.

Here's to another 60 years of great songs and having fun with our European cousins!

**Dean Asker**